

Evren pledges support for Arabs

JEDDAH (AP) — President Kenan Evren of Turkey has expressed his country's support for the Arab cause, pledging to cooperate with Saudi Arabia for peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region, the newspaper Al Madina reported Monday. He told the paper that Turkey supports the Palestinians in their quest for self-determination and an independent state of their own. He called on Israel to withdraw its occupation forces from Arab territories, including the eastern sector of Jerusalem, the paper said. General Evren made the statement on the eve of his planned visit to Saudi Arabia, the first in 15 years by a Turkish president to the kingdom. The Turkish leader is scheduled to arrive Tuesday for a five-day state visit at the invitation of King Fahd. The two men are to discuss ways of broadening co-operation and seek ways of ending the war between Iran and Iraq, the paper said.

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King receives U.S. congressmen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court U.S. Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and U.S. Representative John McCain. During the audience King Hussein reviewed with the U.S. visitors Jordan's stand vis-à-vis Middle East peace efforts and affirmed that Jordan bases its concept of establishing peace on the non-admissibility of occupying land by force as provided for in the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. King Hussein also stressed the necessity of ensuring total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Attending the audience was Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem. Senator Tower and Congressman McCain arrived in Amman earlier Monday for a two-day visit (See story and photo on page 3)

Potash company chairman resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Potash Company (APC) Ali Khasawneh Saturday submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat. Reasons behind the resignation were not disclosed. The former Minister of Public Works and the former Minister of Agriculture and the APC Board of Directors, while no names have been suggested to fill the post of the director-general.

Israeli wounded in Sidon attack

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was wounded Monday when an army convoy was ambushed south of Sidon on the Lebanese coastal road, a military spokesman said. The attackers opened small-arms fire on the convoy and Israeli troops returned the fire, he said. Three Israeli soldiers were wounded Sunday in a grenade attack in Sidon.

U.N. agency censures Israel

GENEVA (AP) — A sharp new series of resolutions harshly condemning Israel for its occupation of Arab territories was approved Monday by the U.N. Human Rights Commission, with the United States the only voting member to oppose all three. The resolutions, two offered by Poland, and one by Czechoslovakia, Syria, Vietnam, Jordan, Tunisia, Qatar, and a third offered by Iran assailed Israel for its activities in the Middle East. The Soviet Union did not directly endorse any of the three. The resolutions generally condemned the occupation of Arab territories including Palestine, and called for a series of votes by comfortable margins with only U.S. "no" votes, but abstentions by some Western European countries.

Low threats against U.S. diplomats

ROME (R) — Letters purporting to come from Red Brigades guerrillas Monday threatened the life of a second U.S. diplomat after the murder in Rome of the director-general of the Multi-National Force in Sinai, Leonam Hunt, but police said they thought they were jokes. The letters, signed by the "Militarist Wing" of the Brigades, said they would kill the U.S. diplomat in a right-wing daily newspaper, Il Giornale d'Italia, a right-wing one, Il Manifesto, and the Milan office of the Italian news agency ANSA, claimed responsibility for last week's Hunt shooting.

Turkish court tries gea in absentia

TANBUL (R) — Mehmet Ali Gea, serving a life term in an Ankara prison for attempting to kill Pope John Paul in St. Peter's Square in 1981, went on trial in his absence here Monday before a military court, court sources said. The sources said the prosecutor demanded the death penalty for Gea for "an attempted assassination against a head of state."

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'Obeidat, condemning Libya for embassy attack, says Jordan reviewing relations

By P.V. Vivekanand and Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff writers

AMMAN — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Monday condemned the burning of Jordan's embassy in Tripoli as a premeditated, criminal act and said Jordan is re-evaluating its relations with Libya in light of the incident.

Jordan holds the Libyan government responsible for the attack and will re-evaluate relations with Tripoli after receiving a full report on the incident from Jordanian Ambassador to Libya Sami Al Shammaleh, who is expected to arrive here Tuesday in response to an urgent summons from the government. Mr. 'Obeidat told the Upper House of Parliament (Senate).

Mr. 'Obeidat, who was addressing a regular session of the Senate, said the Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Saturday immediately after receiving news of the attack and led by him a strong official protest against the "criminal attack which violated Arab and Islamic values."

Following the prime minister's speech and a debate among members, the Senate issued a resolution condemning the "criminal attack engineered against the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli," and held the Libyan government responsible for the attack. It also praised the Jordanian government's stand towards the issue.

'Circumstances prove guilt'

The circumstances surrounding the attack prove beyond doubt that it was perpetrated with the full knowledge and support of the Libyan government, the prime minister said. He pointed out that Libyan Television Thursday called on demonstrators to gather in Tripoli's Green Square at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, shortly before the attack took place. Libyan police and security forces surrounded the embassy and neighbouring streets Saturday and when the embassy staff inquired about the unusual police presence they were told that the measures were a "precaution against a planned demonstration."

Mr. 'Obeidat said. But when the attackers stormed the embassy the police did nothing to prevent them and, on the contrary, helped the criminals, Mr. 'Obeidat said. The police presence near the embassy proves that the Libyan government was aware of the plot to attack the diplomatic mission, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

The whole embassy building was looted and set ablaze, and it was with great difficulty that the ambassador and embassy staff managed to escape the fire, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

The ambassador and embassy staff took refuge in the Kuwaiti embassy in Tripoli and contacted the Jordanian government over wireless, the prime minister said. The government asked the ambassador to return home immediately on the first available plane, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

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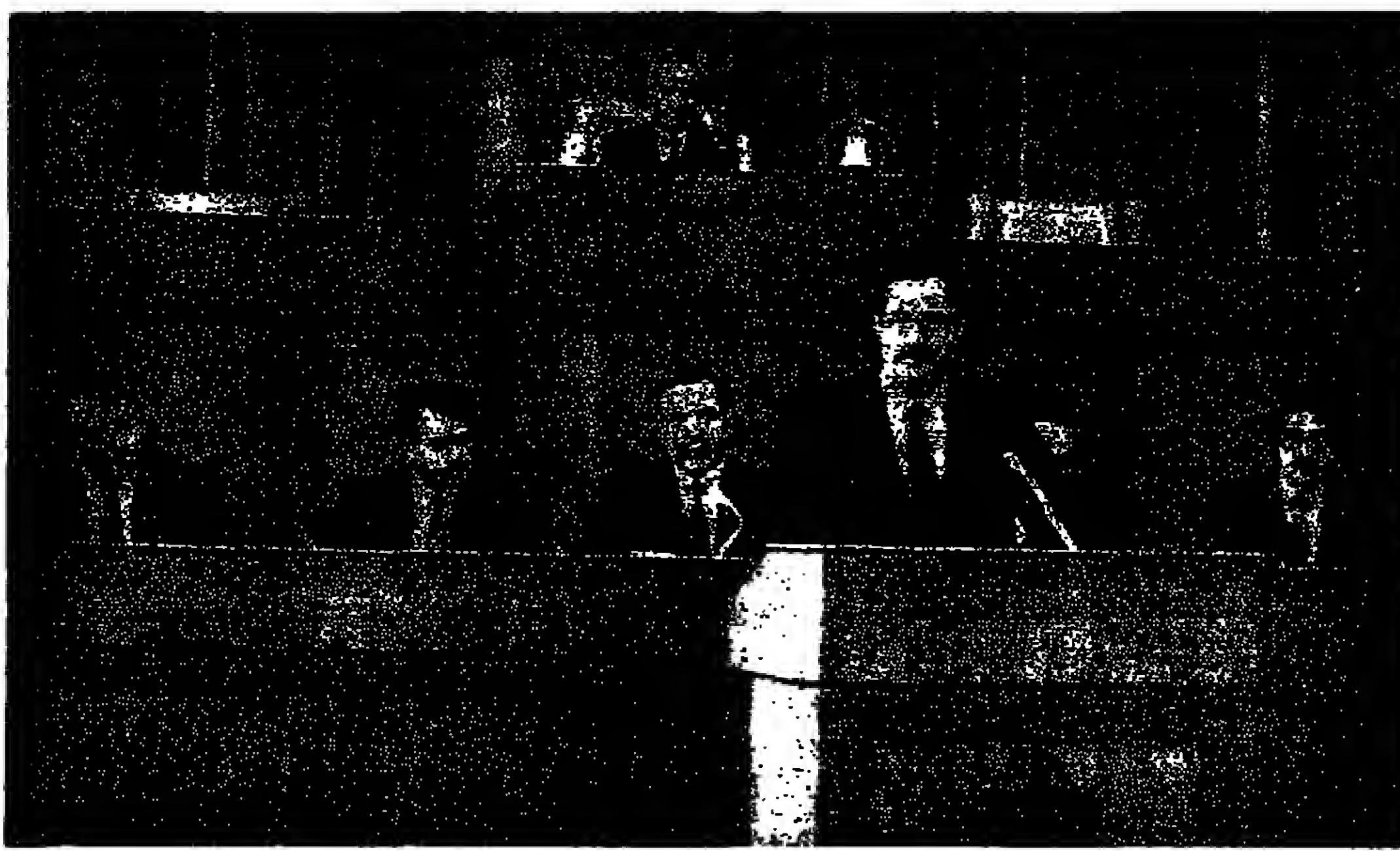
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Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat addresses the Upper House of Parliament Monday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

possible for the attack, the prime minister said.

The Libyan news agency JANA said Sunday that only the Jordanian flag was burned in front of the Tripoli embassy by "Arab and Palestinian demonstrators" protesting against last week's talks in Washington between His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. JANA made no mention of the embassy being looted and burned but Western and Arab diplomats in Tripoli have confirmed the attack and said the embassy has been burnt down.

Mr. 'Obeidat accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's "recruited agents" for the attack and said the attack was the culmination of a series of campaigns against Jordan by the Libyan information media. Before setting fire to the embassy building a number of Libyan policemen joined the looters,

and disappeared immediately after, the prime minister said. All the embassy staff were at work during the attack and most of them escaped the fire by scaling down the walls or sliding down pipes, Mr. 'Obeidat said. He added that the whole attack was filmed by Libyan Television.

Ambassador Shammaleh contacted Libyan Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Abdul Salam Al Tureiki Saturday evening to inform him of the incident, and Mr. Tureiki made a personal apology for what had happened, which he described as a result of "current Arab differences," Mr. 'Obeidat said. The Libyan official also sought to ensure that the incident will not affect bilateral relations, and promised that he would exert all efforts towards developing better relations, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

The Libyan charge d'affaires pretended ignorance of the attack proves the ill-harboured intentions of the Tripoli government, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

The Libyan official has asked for an appointment with the foreign minister during which he is expected to convey the official reply to the Jordanian protest, the prime minister said. But, regardless of the official Libyan reply, the Jordanian government intends to issue a memorandum conveying Jordan's strong protest against the "premeditated criminal attack, which sets a dangerous precedent, contravening Articles 22 and 24 of the Vienna International Agreement on diplomatic relations and contradicting with the good treatment the Libyan embassy in Amman is receiving," the prime minister said.

The government has ordered security to be stepped up for the Libyan mission in Amman following the attack in Tripoli, Mr. 'Obeidat said and added that "this

(Continued on page 3)

peace plan to which Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel had agreed.

The plan would have abrogated Lebanon's May 1983 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel and called for a simultaneous pullout of Syrian and Israeli troops from the country.

President Gemayel dispatched Foreign Minister Elie Salem and National Security Adviser Wadie Haddad to Washington for talks with Reagan administration officials on ways to resolve Lebanon's crisis.

Lebanon's opposition leader Walid Junblat and Shiite Muslim "Amal" militia leader Nabih Berri, Mr. Gemayel's main foes, wound up a six-hour conference with Syrian officials early Monday.

Mr. Berri came out publicly demanding President Gemayel's resignation as a precondition for a peaceful settlement, saying "this is an irrevocable demand."

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Iran shells Iraqi town near border

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Iranian artillery had shelled the small Iraqi town of Chwarta 24 kilometres from the border on the northern war front Monday, causing some damage to a primary school building.

A high command communique said the shelling took place during the daytime, but it was not clear whether it came before or after a 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) deadline for a resumption of Iraqi attacks on previously-selected Iranian towns.

Iraq said a week ago it was suspending strikes against Iranian centres for a seven-day period and warned it would resume the attacks if Iran continued to shell Iraqi civilian areas after the suspension time ended.

As the United Nations announced it was sending a mission to assess war damage in both countries, Iran in turn said it would stop retaliating against Iraqi towns if Iraq held its fire.

In the ground war, Iraq said its helicopter gunships fired on Iranian positions in the central sector of the front where Iran launched an offensive last Wednesday. The gunships scored effective hits before returning safely to base, the communique said.

Meanwhile, citing the "very difficult situation" between Iran and Iraq, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Monday offered to mediate between the two warring countries to prevent bombardments of urban areas.

In an annual review of the agency, ICRC President Alexandre Hay told reporters the ICRC was ready, "if the two countries demand it, to play the role of intermediary for declaring certain localities open cities," or non-military areas.

Iraq earlier called for international observers to monitor the situation, in response to the Iranian announcement that it would hold its fire.

Both sides have reported hundreds of civilian casualties in the week since Iraq launched a missile strike on the Iranian city of Dezful.

The two partial truce announcements had made it seem more likely that fighting would ease off ahead of the expected arrival later this week of a United Nations mission to inspect damage to civilian areas in both countries.

Iran has said it will not hold political discussions with the team.

GCC ministers discuss defence strategy, page 2

Shamir: Israel wants 'security guarantees'

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday Israel would only leave southern Lebanon if there was another force there capable of preventing commandos from striking at its northern border.

After talks with French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson, current president of the European Community, Mr. Shamir told newsmen: "Israel will leave South Lebanon only when we have someone there who can assure our security."

Israeli officials said the deepening crisis in Lebanon and Israel's trade relations with the community were the main topics at Mr. Shamir's hour-long meeting with Mr. Cheysson at a Belgian government guest house outside Brussels.

They quoted the prime minister as saying that what happened in Beirut, where beleaguered President Amin Gemayel is under increasing pressure from opponents, was beyond Israel's immediate concern.

Diplomats noted that Mr. Shamir no longer cited Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon as a condition for an Israeli pullout.

The prime minister told Mr. Cheysson that a "security force" to police southern Lebanon would have to be a "real fighting force" to prevent commando attacks against his country.

Israel would require the force to be "more active" than the Western Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut or United Nations peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, which he described as only a buffer between rival factions.

The officials said Mr. Shamir blamed Syria for the current crisis, saying the Lebanese had been "prepared to come to terms" with Israel but had been prevented by Damascus.

Mr. Shamir was in Brussels to attend the first session of a joint Israeli-European Community economic commission since 1980 and was expected to press for better political and trade ties with the 10-nation bloc.

In the talks with Mr. Cheysson, he voiced strong concern that Spain's expected accession to the community later this decade could seriously harm Israel's troubled economy. About 70 per cent of Israeli agricultural exports go to the community at present.

Shamir begins talks with EC, page 2

Saudi leader in Syria for talks on Lebanon

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz arrived here Monday for talks with Syrian officials on fresh ways to help end the fighting in Lebanon, Saudi sources said.

Damascus Radio said Prince Abdullah, accompanied by Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, was met by Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm and President Hafez Al Assad's brother, Rifaat.

Saudi Arabia, Syria's main financial supporter, has played a key role trying to mediate a ceasefire between Lebanon's warring factions, but efforts to stop the latest fighting have so far failed.

Last September, Prince Bandar helped mediate a ceasefire arrangement which held for some time.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal returned to Riyadh from Damascus on Saturday after Syria rejected an eight-point

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Jewish leader concerned over fate of Camp David

CAIRO (R) — The chairman of the conference of American Jewish organisations, Julius Berman, met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday and expressed concern at what he called a "deadening" of the Camp David accord.

Mr. Berman told reporters that Mr. Mubarak, during a meeting of about an hour, had linked the return of an Egyptian ambassador to Israel with the Palestinian question.

Egypt sent an ambassador to Israel under their 1979 treaty, but withdrew him in 1982 originally to protest over Israel's invasion of Lebanon. It has resisted U.S. pressure to send him back.

"Now the president is raising the Palestinian question and Tabá," Mr. Berman said. Tabá is a part of Sinai remaining under Israeli occupation, although Mr. Berman said Mr. Mubarak called that "a minor point that could be resolved by a little goodwill."

Mr. Berman said he had voiced "our feeling that there has been a deadening" of the Camp David process, but Mr. Mubarak had rejected suggestions that Egypt was drawing back from Israel in order to improve relations with the Arabs and the Muslim World.

Mr. Mubarak said he felt strongly "that it is possible to have a

warm relationship with Israel and the Israeli people and be a member of the Islamic conference and a leading Arab state," Mr. Berman reported.

Israel expressed dismay last December when Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was welcomed to Cairo by Mr. Mubarak.

It was angered further last week when Mr. Mubarak said in Washington Israel should withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon and that the United States should start a dialogue with the PLO.

Mr. Berman said of his talk with Mr. Mubarak: "We obviously discussed various issues that have arisen in connection with the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt and the Camp David process."

"It was our feeling that there has been a deadening of the process. While of course there is no question of a war between the two countries... we were somewhat depressed about what was happening and what seems to be the coldness of the relationship."

Mr. Berman said Mr. Mubarak asked the Egyptian Defence Ministry to co-operate in efforts to find the remains of several Israelis still listed as missing from the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars.

McFarlane: U.S. Marines are moving out of Beirut

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane said Sunday that U.S. Marines were in the process of being transferred out of Beirut to ships off the coast of Lebanon.

"They are moving already and I'm sure there are some aboard ship by this time," Mr. McFarlane said in an interview on ABC-TV's this week with David Brinkley. He said all the Marines would be aboard ships 30 days from last Friday.

Mr. McFarlane said the United States would not move its warships from positions off Lebanon to accommodate any United Nations peacekeeping force.

Asked whether the United States would relocate its fleet if that was a condition for the establishment of a U.N. force in Beirut, he said: "absolutely not."

Mr. McFarlane said U.S. ships would continue firing on Syrian-occupied parts of Lebanon "as long as Americans are in danger."

The presidential adviser said it had been perhaps "naïve" of the administration to believe Syria planned to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, but he detested this assumption as a basis of U.S. policy decisions.

"At the outset of our involvement," Mr. McFarlane said, "Syria's commitment publicly and at Arab conferences was that it would leave Lebanon."

"That statement of policy on Syria's part was not only to us but to other Arabs and a matter of some standing in the Arab community."

"They've simply reneged."

Mr. McFarlane said he was very puzzled by a report in Sunday's New York Times which said the Reagan administration had con-

ducted secret discussions with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for a nine-month period.

Remarking that he had checked with Mr. Reagan on the matter, Mr. McFarlane said: "I have no personal knowledge of any such contact and I'm very confident the president was unaware of any such contacts if they took place."

An administration official contacted by Reuters, who asked not to be identified, said:

"There is no change in our policy towards the PLO. The United States will not negotiate with or recognise the PLO until it recognises Israel's right to exist."

On the same television programme, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens charged that 1,000 "PLO terrorists" were back in Beirut.

Speaking live from occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Arens said: "We're putting a lot of pressure on the Druze. We're telling them



Robert McFarlane

they have to be sure the PLO terrorists don't come southward towards Israeli lines and we hope the Druze will be able to make it stick."

Of the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut, Mr. Arens said: "It doesn't help (Lebanese president) Amin Gemayel's government, but then it looks in the last week or so like maybe there's nothing that can help him."

Marines question Beirut mission

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — As they prepare to withdraw from Beirut, many U.S. Marines serving with the Multinational Force have mixed feelings about the results of their 17-month mission in Lebanon. The 1,200 to 1,300 Marines, members of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit, arrived in Beirut on Nov. 17, shortly after spearheading the U.S. invasion of Grenada. They relieved the unit that had been here during the Oct. 23 truck bombing in which more than 240 American servicemen were killed.

After the bombing, the Marines dug in deep, spending most of their time in sandbagged bunkers. With admission to the heavily barricaded Marine compound strictly controlled, many of them have never met a Lebanese.

Their only interaction with the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shiite Muslim militiamen

surrounding them has been an occasional exchange of rifle, rocket or artillery fire.

"I'm clued to be leaving, but I'm disappointed in all aspects of our mission over here," said Lt. Dennis Wheelahan, 31. As he spoke, machine gun fire crackled and artillery thundered between PSP and Lebanese army positions in the hills overlooking the base.

"It wasn't a mission for the Marines to sit here and do nothing. We tried to make our military presence work and continually stated our presence here would give the Lebanese government time. It just hasn't worked," Wheelahan said.

As Lt. George Miller, 24, put it: "I think everybody feels disappointed that we are pulling out and nothing has been accomplished. I don't think anybody understood how complex the pro-

blem over here was."

In Grenada, said Lance Corporal James Williams, 19, "we took the fight to them. Instead of them coming to us. Our mission was to secure the airport, and we did it. The mission of the Marine corps usually is to go out and take an area."

But in Beirut, he added, "all we do is take sniper rounds from people we can't even see, and I don't like sitting around getting shot at."

Williams serves with a machine gun team atop "Suribachi," a hill-top position named for the hill on which the Marines raised the U.S. flag on the Pacific Ocean of Iwo Jima in World War II.

He said he thought the mission was to stop the Syrians from returning to Beirut. Others were also unsure about what their mission was.

Sudan, Ethiopia to meet soon

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Egypt has arranged for a meeting shortly between Sudanese and Ethiopian foreign ministers to "exchange views on the events on their borders and settle their differences," it was disclosed here.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali who made a brief unscheduled visit to Sudan Sunday told reporters that the agreement to meet was reached following a visit to the two countries last week by Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Ali did not say where the planned meeting could take place but a Cairo magazine reported last week that Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam had "welcomed" an Egyptian offer to mediate a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

GCC ministers start talks on defence

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) met here Monday to explore means of boosting collective defence capabilities and bring the Iraq-Iran war to an end.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in an economic integration and collective defence pact.

The defence ministers were conducting their deliberations behind closed doors.

Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, underlined the worries of the GCC countries about the eventuality of foreign military intervention in the oil-rich region. He told reporters that this eventuality was high on the conference agenda.

Kuwait was to send an envoy to Tehran in a new bid to mediate an end to the Gulf war.

The GCC countries are ostensibly neutral in the Gulf war, now in its fourth year. But some of the six member states have been quietly aiding Iraq against Iran, while insisting that the war serves no interest of anyone save the "enemies of Islam and Arabism."

One byproduct of the Gulf war was a repeated Iranian threat to block the Gulf oil shipping tanker route of the Hormuz Strait if Iraq attacked Iran's vital oil installations.

Conference sources said the defence ministers were to examine these threats and find a United position on defence of the waterway.

The United States has committed itself to the defence of free navigation in the Hormuz and the rest of the Gulf waters.

"The threat to block the Hormuz amounts to an open invitation

to the big powers to intervene in our (Gulf) internal security affairs," Sheikh Salem told reporters shortly before the session got underway. "We reject this (threat) and shall resist the eventuality of foreign intervention at all levels."

Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates also told reporters that the conference was "being convened amid a multiplicity of changes and critical circumstances that have been menacing the Gulf region in particular and the Arab World in general."

He cited the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq war as examples of "menacing, perilous changes."

The defence ministers, who make up the GCC military council, were to discuss a report submitted to them by the GCC armed forces chiefs of staff, who met last week and discussed means of up-

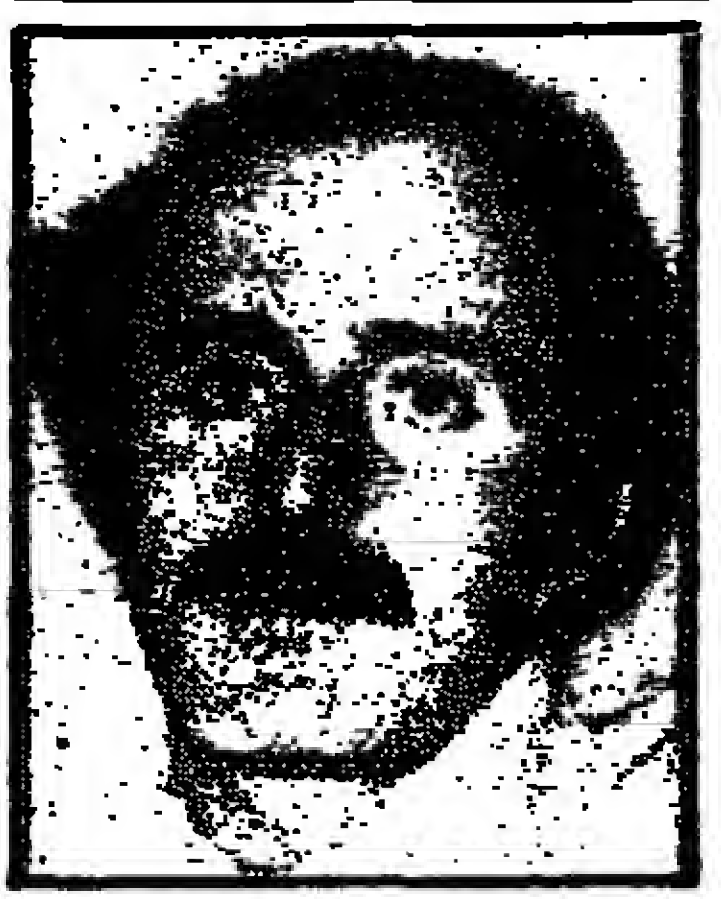
grading co-operation among the GCC countries.

"The chiefs of staff report will be discussed by the defence ministers from strategic, tactical and financial aspects," said Kuwait's Sheikh Salem.

The Saudi Arabian defence minister, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, said last week that the Doha meeting would discuss the advisability of staging joint naval exercises as well as the formation of a joint military academy by the GCC member countries.

The GCC states held their first military manoeuvres in Abu Dhabi last October, with land and air forces participating.

The exercise was seen as the nucleus of a planned joint rapid deployment force of the GCC Armed Forces for the defence of the region against external aggression.



Walid Junblatt

Junblatt to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Walid Junblatt, the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader who is fighting the Lebanese government of Amin Gemayel, will visit the United States early next month, the head of an American Druze organisation said Sunday.

Mr. Junblatt has accepted an invitation to the United States from the American Druze community, said Raymond H. Hamden, chairman of the American Druze Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Junblatt is scheduled to arrive

on March 7 for a three-day visit, Mr. Hamden said.

Mr. Hamden said he hopes Mr. Junblatt can meet with State Department and Pentagon officials, although no formal arrangements have been made yet.

Mr. Hamden said Mr. Junblatt's visit is designed to correct misperceptions about the Druze.

"We are not anti-Christian or anti-Arabian," he said. "We are against the Falange government" led by Mr. Gemayel, a Maronite Christian.

Ethiopia seeks to break Saharan deadlock

RABAT (R) — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), has launched a fresh effort to break deadlock in the Western Sahara conflict, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu has put a series of proposals to Morocco and its adversary, the Polisario Front, which is fighting for independence of the Western Sahara, the diplomats told newsmen.

One of the main proposals is that an OAU special committee on the conflict should hear separately the views of the two sides about organising a referendum on self-determination for the Moroccan-ruled territory, the diplomats added.

Such a referendum was to have been held last year but no progress has been made since September when the OAU committee failed in efforts to hold a meeting at

which both sides would have been heard together.

Morocco says it is ready to organise a referendum but it rejects direct contacts with the Polisario, asserting that such a meeting would impose the Polisario as a main negotiating partner.

Moroccan officials have said the country has no objection however to the special OAU committee hearing its views and those of the Polisario separately.

Bahrain has record dry spell

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has gone without rain for a record 313 days and weathermen said Monday there was no immediate prospect for an end to the dry spell.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Directorate's meteorological services said there had been no measurable rainfall since April 12 last year in the island state, which normally has about seven centimetres annually.

The previous longest recorded dry spell since Bahrain began keeping weather data in 1902 was 287 days between 1965 and 1966.

The drought has hardly affected water supplies. Most of Bahrain's water comes from subsurface aquifers, layers of limestone holding fossil water trapped between impermeable rock.

Weathermen said there was no immediate prospect of rain in the area, which normally receives the bulk of its rainfall between late November and March.

Falangist forces get windfall of military equipment

SAADIYAT, Lebanon (AP) — The hurried evacuation of the Lebanese army's 4th Brigade after its defeat last week resulted in a windfall of U.S.-supplied tanks, armoured vehicles and other equipment for the Falangist militia holding this tiny enclave south of Beirut.

For the moment, however, the stroke of providence is incomplete because some of the military gear, particularly the 15 or so M-48 tanks, is too sophisticated for the militiamen to use against the mainly PSP (Druze) fighters of Walid Junblatt.

After a concerted PSP offensive, the Lebanese army was driven from several important points in the mountains southeast of Beirut and forced to withdraw south of the Damour River.

Part of the Lebanese army brigade, about 800-1,000 men ac-

ording to army sources, was evacuated by sea. The rest either went over to the enemy or fled south beyond the Awali River into Israeli-held territory.

The boats taking them away were incapable of loading the brigade's heavy equipment, so it fell into the hands of the Lebanese Forces militia. Though most of the 30 or so armoured personnel carriers have been pressed into service by the Falangist militia, the majority of the tanks remain parked.

"We don't know how to use them," said Elias Zayek, the senior Lebanese Forces officer in the area.

The Lebanese Forces are a coalition of right-wing Christian militias dominated by the Falange Party of President Amin Gemayel's father, Pierre Gemayel.

The Falange and the Lebanese Forces have been fighting alo-

ngside the regular army since the outbreak of last September's civil war that followed Israel's abrupt withdrawal from the central mountains to the defence line at the Awali River south of Beirut.

The Falangist militia here had a few Soviet-built T-54 and T-55 tanks captured in earlier fighting against Syrians and Palestinians, but they had never worked with the American equipment used by the Lebanese army.

"I didn't know it was so sophisticated," Zayek said of the American M-48 tank. "They not only are more sophisticated, but require much more maintenance than the old Soviet tanks."

The Lebanese Forces hold a strip of coastal territory about 15 kilometres long from the Damour to the Awali Rivers. Their line extends about 10 kilometres east along the Damour, facing the PSP, and about 15 kilometres east

along the Awali, with the Israelis to their backs.

The Israelis were once the allies of the Falangist militia, but these days the Falangists are finding them increasingly unfriendly.

The two river lines are connected by a narrow strip of coastline two to three kilometres wide forming a horseshoe and holding off a bulge of PSP positions located on mountaintops overlooking the sea.

With the defeat of the Lebanese army, the PSP pushed to the sea to the north and took Damour.

The small Falangist enclave comes under daily shelling from the PSP around Damour as well as from the mountains to the east.

"See that smoke up there?" says Habib, a young militiaman commanding the northernmost Falangist position about 300 metres south of the Damour River. "They are burning our houses."

They didn't take that area by force. There was a traitor in the Lebanese army that allowed them to take it," he said.

When the army retreated south of the Damour River, the Falangists were forced to do so as well. Zayek said a Lebanese army battalion commander gave up one important town without firing a shot, then fled.

According to Zayek, 60 per cent of the brigade went over to the other side, taking their equipment with them.

Most of the civilian population fled south to Israeli-held territory. Many of the PSP positions overlook the sea and the coastal road, subjecting traffic to sniper fire and shelling.

Cut off from the north and east by the PSP, and faced with intransigent Israelis in the south, logistics is the main problem facing Zayek and his men.

Israeli premier begins talks with EC

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began talks Monday aimed at improving relations with the European Community (EC), Israeli officials said.

Israel and the Community are linked by a cooperation agreement and Shamir wants to improve this contract because of Israel's huge trade deficit with the Community which reached about \$830 million last year, diplomats said.

Mr. Shamir met French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, current president of the bloc, and is due to meet several other Community ministers. No details of the talks with Mr. Cheysson were given but Israeli officials said Mr. Shamir planned to raise the Lebanon crisis.

Mr. Shamir will attend the first meeting since 1980 of a joint economic commission Monday

night and Israeli officials said he would press for steps to cut Israel's trade deficit and for guarantees that Spain's accession would not slash Israeli farm exports.

Diplomats said the Community was unlikely to accept the wish for better access to the Community because of its own problems.

The ministers would ask Israel for more patience until the Community's internal negotiations on agricultural reforms and its Mediterranean policy were finished, they said.

Relations between the Community and Israel reached a low point in 1982 when the Europeans froze a \$40 million aid package in protest at the invasion of Lebanon.

Diplomats here said the West Europeans regarded the present Israeli administration as obstructing Middle East peace while the Israelis resent the Com-

munity's verbal support for the Palestinians.

"Community diplomats' said European ministers would press Mr. Shamir to enter talks on President Reagan's Middle East plan."

Israel is also concerned that its deeply-troubled economy could be further weakened by competition from Spanish fruit and vegetable products when Madrid joins the Community later.

Spanish entry is one of the other main themes that Community foreign ministers were due to tackle Monday and Mr. Shamir wanted guarantees before Spain's entry into the Community.

Entry conditions for Spanish farm products have been the main obstacle so far blocking Madrid's efforts to join the 10 but diplomats said France had now withdrawn its objections and wanted to give Spain an entry offer by September to allow it to join in 1986.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div><div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div><div>MAIN CHANNEL</div><div>17:30 Koran 17:40 Cartoon 18:05 Children's Programmes 19:00 Programmes Review 19:10 Programme on Sport 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic Series 21:30 Local Program 22:30 Cinema "44" 23:15 News in Arabic</div><div>FOREIGN CHANNEL</div><div>18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Comedy: Barney Miller 21:00 The Great Paintings 21:10 Documentary: The Jewel in the Crown - Ep. 6 22:00 News in English 22:15 Play of the Week: A Wife Like the Moon</div><div>RADIO JORDAN</div><div>855 KHz, AM, 90 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW</div><div>07:00 Light Music 07:30 News Desk 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Morning Show 11:00 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumental 14:30 Science Fiction 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumental 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Science Report 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Top Twenty 19:00 Newsdesk 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Evening Show 21:55 News Summary 22:00 Evening Show 23:00 News Headlines 23:05 Evening Show 14:00 News Headlines</div></div> <div><div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div><div>630 KHz, 72.1 MHz 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Rock back the Clock 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Arthur Rubinstein 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Anything for a Laugh 09:00 World News 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 After Hours 10:30 The Comedians 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 12:00 Discovery 12:30 The Tone Poets 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:20 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Women of the World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 A Jolly Good Show 16:30 Sherlock Holmes 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Talking about Music 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:30 Scotland This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:30 News Summary 20:35 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Let There Be Drums 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 22:45 Women of the World 23:15 Letters from London 23:15 Paper Chase 23:30 Musical Memories of Evelyn Barbirolli 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Scotland This Week 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 After Hours 01:30 Meridian</div><div>VOIC OF AMERICA</div><div>1260 KHz, 152.10 KHz 06:00 VOA Morning: News to the hour, news summaries, daily business reports, science and medicine, sports reports, VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary, viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News</div></div>	<div><div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div><div>EXHIBITIONS</div><div>* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery. * "French paintings" by Father Bezdikian at the Marriott Hotel at 6:30 p.m. * "Portraits of Landscapes from the Middle East" by Wolfgang Tietzsch at the Goethe Institute at 9:30 a.m. * Paintings by Saleh Khalil Abu Shindi at the Alia Art Gallery at 5:00 p.m. * Paintings by Jean-Claude Bourdais at the French Cultural Centre at 6:30 p.m.</div><div>FILM</div><div>* "Russian Film Week" starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.</div><div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div><div>Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6611267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 361474 French Cultural Centre 37094 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Turkish Cultural Centre 24044 Turkish Cultural Centre 30777 Hays Arts Centre 657145 Hussein Youth City 667181 V.W.C.A. 41793 V.M.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 443555</div><div>MUSEUMS</div><div>Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Nabata and Jesh 14th to 18th centuries. The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51791. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Juaal Al Oa'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.</div></div> <div><div>Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Vumtazah, Jabal Luweldieh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664241. Peoples' Hall of Jordan Museum (100 to 150 years old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 371694.</div><div>SERVICE CLUBS</div><div>Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.</div><div>CHURCHES</div><div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman. Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweldieh. 37441. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein. 661757. Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox): Abdali. 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman. 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.</div><div>PRAYER TIMES</div><div>04:50 Fajr 06:13 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:50 Dhuhir 15:01 'Asr 17:26 Maghrib 18:49 Isha</div></div>	<div><div>AMMAN AIRPORT</div><div>This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 1081 53251, where it should always be verified.</div><div>ARRIVALS</div><div>07:05 Cairo (MS) 07:05 Amman (RJ) 09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:30 Kuwait, Tunis (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:00 Damascus (RJ) 10:00 Uda, Bahrain (RJ) 10:40 Dhahran, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) 14:30 Kuwait (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 16:00 Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ) 16:45 Larissa (RJ) 17:00 Amsterdam (KLM) 17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 17:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ) 18:30 Baghdad (IA) 18:35 London, Paris (RJ) 19:00 Tripoli (RJ) 19:05 Athens (OAG) 20:20 Cairo (MS) 20:40 Rome, Damascus (Alitalia) 20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 06:45 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 Athens, Copenhagen (RJ) 11:30 Cairo (RJ) 12:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (Saudi Arabia) 12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:45 Larissa (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (MS) 15:40 Kuwait (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 19:30 Baghdad (IA)</div><div>DEPARTURES:</div><div>05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:45 Damascus (RJ) 07:40 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 07:40 Amman (RJ) 08:05 Amman (RJ) 08:05 Cairo (MS) 10:30 Tripoli (RJ) 11:30 Cairo, Tunis (Tunisair) 11:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 Athens, Copenhagen (RJ) 12:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) 12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:45 Larissa (RJ) 14:30 Cairo (MS) 15:40 Kuwait (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 19:30 Baghdad (IA)</div></div> <div><div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div><div>Local sell/buy rates in JLS</div><div>Belgian franc 0.77/1 68.1 Dutch guilder 1.22/1 123.7 Egyptian pound 322/ 325.3 French franc 45/ 45.3 Iraqi dinar 368.3/ 374 Italian lire (for 100) 22.4/ 22.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 151.7/ 161.7 Kuwaiti dinar 1273.6/ 1274.3 Lebanese lira 60.1/ 61.4 Omani riyal 1017.7/ 1078.3 Qatari riyal 102/ 102.5 Saudi riyal 106.4/ 106.8 Swedish crown 46.8/ 47.1 Swiss franc 169.4/ 170.4 Syrian lira 54/ 55.4 U.A.E. dirham 102/ 102.5 U.S. sterling pound 541/ 543.5 U.S. dollar 372.5/ 374.5 W. German mark 138.7/ 139.5</div></div> <div><div>WEATHER</div><div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div><div>It will be partly cloudy, with northerly to westerly moderate winds. Possibly there will be scattered showers. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.</div><div>Low/high temperature in deg.C</div><div>Amman 37/13 Aqaba 31/19 Deserts 21/6 Jordan Valley 21/6</div><div>Yesterday's high temperatures:</div><div>Amman 14, Aqaba 21, Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.</div></div>	<div><div>USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.</div><div>EMERGENCIES</div><div>Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire 193, 75111 Fire headquarters 22104-5 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56394-1 Electric power Co. 36301-2 Municipal water services 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport 1081 53333</div><div>HOSPITALS</div><div>Hussein Medical Centre 813413-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44204-1 Akleh Maternity, J. Amman 42362 Jabaal Amman Maternity 42362 Matbas, J. Amman 36141 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 85545 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667154 Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227-4 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajreh 77111-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marka 91611</div><div>NIGHT DUTY</div><div>AMMAN: Dr. Suleiman Attari 74203</div><div>MARKET PRICES</div><div>Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.</div><div>Apple (Double Red) 350/240 Apple (Golden) 450/400 Apple (Stark) 450/400 Apple (Smith) 450/400 Apple (local) 220/180 Banana 320/240 Banana (Mukammal) 230/220 Beans 300/260 Cabbage 60/40 Carrot 150/120 Cauliflower (white) 60/40 Cucumber (large) 200/140 Cucumber (small) 320/240 Dates 180/150 Eggplant (large) 110/70 Eggplant (small) 140/100 Figs 400/300 Garlic 340/240 Grapes (white) 700/600 Grapes (black) 700/600 Grapefruit 80/50 Guava 400/300 Lemon 110/80 Marrow (large) 110/80 Marrow (small) 120/100 Mellow 140/100 Olives 350/200 Onion (dry) 180/130 Okra 120/80 Oranges (Abu Sacra) 320/160 Oranges (Shmeisani) 220/160 Pears 320/160 Pepper (sweet) 110/70 Pepper (hot-green) 520/300 Potatoes 190/160</div></div>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan lauds work of Arabic academy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Academy of Arabic has received a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan praising the academy's concern and interest in Arab manuscripts and in translating scientific books into the language in order to increase the number of people benefiting from the works.

Glass factory head leaves for Belgium

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Audit Bureau president and chairman of the glass factory board, Dr. Hashim Al Dabbas, left for Belgium Sunday at the head of a delegation from the factory to hold talks with a Belgian company supervising the construction of the factory. The talks will deal with technical matters in preparation to commissioning of the factory on March 3.

Ajlouni, Badran discuss health services

IRBID (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni and Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran visited the main site of Yarmouk University Monday where they met and discussed the hospital which is to be established there. The ministry and the university agreed to prepare studies and to establish contact between each other in preparation for signing an agreement to co-operate in organising health services in Irbid hospitals.

Abdul Jaber to head revamped population body

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has approved the re-establishment of the National Committee for Population, under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber.

The committee's membership will comprise the secretary-general of the Higher Council of Education, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Education Abdul Latif Arabiat, President of the National Planning Council Omar

Abdullah Dakhlan, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Health Suleiman Al Subeili, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Information Peter Salah, Director-General of the Civil Registration Department Rifa'i Al Hazayme and the head of the population studies at the University of Jordan.

The Director-General of Statistics Burhan Shraideh has been appointed secretary-general of the committee.

Course to train vocational teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A training seminar for officers who give tuition at the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) as well as some private sector factories started Monday at the Wadi Seer Vocational Centre.

The nine-day seminar aims to standardise the training procedures for officers in their work at the corporation, and to provide them with the suitable skills and teaching methods to train others professionally.

Participants in the seminar will discuss a number of matters covering specifications and the training requirements of industrial corporations, as well as designing training programmes, methods of assessment, specifying the

building and construction requirements of training centres and methods of evaluating the cost of training and the number of educators required in various projects.

VTC Director-General Munther Masri opened the seminar explaining the role of training officers and their relationship with others.

He said that the trainees are "the axis around which VTC revolves and the basis and purpose of its existence."

Therefore, he continued, training officers have to deal with their duties both on "a human and vocational basis, and to find ways to reduce the negative effect of society on them and to plant in them good moral values and to



Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee John Tower arrives Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

U.S. senator arrives on two-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — U.S. Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, arrived here Monday on a two-day official visit, during which he will meet high-ranking Jordanian officials.

Mr. Tower was received at Amman Airport in Marka by deputy director of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry and U.S. Ambassador in Amman Richard Viets.

116 candidates to contest by-elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of nominees for the parliamentary by-elections in all the constituencies in the East Bank of Jordan reached 116 Monday, of which 41 nominees are in the Amman Governorate, 20 in Irbid, 29 in Balqa, 22 in Karak and four in the special district of Tafila, according to Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Ahmad Al Aqileh.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Aqileh announced that nominations for the parliamentary by-elections were closed at 2:00 p.m. Monday.

He added that no security disturbances or election malpractices had been reported during the five-day nomination period specified by the law.

"This is due to the good sense of people, supporters and nominees alike, their appreciation of the good work being done by election officials, and people's actions as good citizens," Mr. Aqileh added.

He also expressed the hope that such commitment to responsible and honest competition would prevail until the end of the hustings. Meanwhile, Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qur'an announced that the governorate is currently taking measures to secure ballot boxes for the elections and has appointed a supervising committee to take control.

"Each voter will be requested to present an article of identification issued either by the Civil Registration Department or by the General Passports Department," according to Mr. Qur'an.

A voter will not be allowed to cast his or her vote except in the centre specified except people supervising the boxes and the candidates.

Iraqi police chief visits Amman directorate HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — The director-general of Police in Iraq, Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz, Monday morning visited the Amman Police Directorate.

He listened to a briefing by the director of the organisation there in which he reviewed the achievements and prerogative of the directorate and discussed the progress of work in its individual divisions and branches.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Khaleq expressed his admiration at the level of organisation and performance achieved by the directorate.

He was accompanied during the visit by the Assistant Director-General of Public Security with special responsibility for administrative affairs and director of public relations at the Public Security Directorate.

PLO details Zionist oppression to U.N. team

AMMAN (Petra) — The Zionist's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, the Israeli settlement policy and ways of confiscating Palestinian land were discussed Monday during a meeting between a United Nations (U.N.) team and Palestinian officials at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Occupied Homeland Affairs Department in Amman.

The three-member team, headed by Dudley Madawella, arrived here Saturday on a fact-finding tour, following which they will submit a report to the United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, about the present and future impact of the Israeli settlements on the living conditions of the population in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian officials at the PLO department presented the delegation members with reports

depicting the effects of the Israeli settlements on the conditions of people on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to maps showing the expansion in the construction of settlements and the areas of land which have recently been confiscated.

The delegation also listened to a briefing on organised Zionist aggression and on both the declared and underground terror campaign of the Israeli settlers.

Attending the meeting were Director of Occupied Homeland Affairs Department Yacoub Al Obaidi, Chief of Studies at the department Walid Mustafa and Fahd Al Qawasmeh, the deported Mayor of Hebron.

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Hospital Director Abdul Haf-

eez Momani said that this new unit will be opened within the next two months, pointing out that the equipment and machines for it are presently available being stored at the Ministry of Health.

He added that this unit will work to develop and modernise surgical, preventive and treatment services for the people of the Irbid Governorate.

The governor also visited the

department of communications, finance, passports, public works and the law courts where he met the directors of these departments and discussed with them the operations of facilities rendered to the people of the governorate.

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'Obeidat condemns Libya

(Continued from page 1)

is expected from us as a nation which respects and honours international conventions and agreements, and shoulders its responsibilities under all circumstances."

The government has asked all of the embassy staff in Tripoli to return to Amman, leaving only one person in charge of the embassy, Mr. 'Obeidat said. The diplomats will not be sent back to Tripoli until matters clear and until the government decides on proper actions to be taken in view of the attack, the prime minister added.

Ambassador awaited

The cabinet, which met Sunday to assess the situation, is looking forward to obtaining more detailed information from Ambassador Shamallah who is expected to arrive Tuesday, Mr. 'Obeidat said.

"On this occasion," the prime minister told the Senate, "I would like to clarify to the Senate members that it is time to evaluate Jordanian-Libyan relations in a radical manner, taking into account all the practices contravening international norms, Arab brotherhood and international charters which the Libyan regime has taken against Jordan on various occasions, and taking into consideration the official stands taken by Libyan officials, starting with Libyan leader Muammar Al Qadhafi and ending with his girl recruits who participated in looting the contents of the Jordanian embassy, and campaigns launched by Libya's information agencies against Jordan."

On receiving a full report from the ambassador the government will take steps vis-a-vis relations with Libya "steps that are appropriate that can safeguard the dignity and respect of Jordan and its citizens here and abroad and that can help us to take reciprocal action wherever and whenever fit," Mr. 'Obeidat added.

"Jordan reserves the full right to take whatever actions it may deem fit against this engineered incident and also has the right to full compensation for the damages the embassy sustained as a result of the criminal attack and holds Libya responsible for the safety of the Jordanian ambassador, staff of the embassy and families of the embassy's staff in Tripoli and their

residences," the prime minister asserted.

"I believe that the measures taken so far do not warrant making further contacts with the Arab League until we get a clear picture," the prime minister said. "The decision we shall take will be in the interest of the Jordanian people and in the interest of the security both inside and outside the country. Consequently our decision will not be an irritable one, it will be a responsible and constructive one."

Senators call for action

Following the prime minister's statement, a number of Senators, including three former ministers, strongly condemned the attack and expressed support for any measures that the government would take against Libya.

Former Prime Minister Mudar Badran said details of what happened proved that the incident has been engineered by the Libyan authorities. He added that it is for the government to act on the subject of reassessing relations with Libya in the light of public interest.

Mr. Badran suggested that a statement denouncing this incident be issued and that any actions to be taken by Jordan should be conveyed to the Arab League and the United Nations since the attack contravenes the Arab League and international charters on duties of host countries to provide protection for diplomatic missions and diplomats.

Senator Bahjat Al Talhouni, also a former prime minister, expressed support for Mr. Badran's suggestions. "The attack against the Jordanian embassy in Libya is actually an aggression against Jordanian territories," he said.

Former Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai said the incident violates all international and diplomatic rules and regulations. "The attack against our embassy is unjustifiable," he said. In a clear reference to Mr. Rifai's political manifesto, Mr. Rifai said that even "the green book" does not justify such actions.

Mr. Rifai said that he will support any measures the government decides to take against Libya in retaliation for "the Libyan aggression against Jordanian territories in Tripoli."

Senator Rifai warned the gov-

ernment against possible thefts by Libyan elements or even the Libyan authorities of official Jordanian stamps and passports that were at the embassy at the time of the attack. "The policies that the Libyan authorities have been following against Jordan indicate that such an act is possible on their part," he said.

Mr. Rifai urged the government to take the necessary measures "to counter the dangerous consequences in case Libya got hold of Jordanian passports or official stamps."

Former Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh called on the government to reassess all aspects of its relations with Libya. He expressed the view that Jordan should not confine itself to severing political and diplomatic relations with Libya but should extend the measures to include severing economic and other relations between the two countries.

"I hope that the government will take this suggestion into consideration because anybody who is ready to violate an embassy premises can also commit more serious actions against Jordan," Mr. Tarawneh said.

The importance of re-assessing relations between Jordan and Libya was also voiced by Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh, Jordan's former ambassador to the U.N., who expressed full confidence in the final decisions and measures the government would take concerning the incident.

Mr. Nuseibeh linked the burning of the Jordanian embassy to last year's attacks against Jordanian diplomats abroad. He pointed out that despite the measures taken by the Jordanian government to protect the lives of Jordanian diplomats abroad, many of them are still living in fear from possible attacks against their lives. He urged the government to provide the needed security for Jordanian diplomats abroad.

Senators Dhouqan Al Hindawi and Walid Salah expressed the view that in the meantime the government should confine itself to condemnation of the attack until more details emerge on the circumstances of the incident. "Only when all details on the incident are clarified can the government take final measures that will maintain Jordan's security and dignity," Mr. Dhouqan said.

Aqaba soon to get gardens complex

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Aqaba Regional Development Authority (ARDA) will shortly establish "The Prince Hamzeh Gardens" — one of a number of the major projects to be carried out in the Aqaba region, ARDA Director Mohammad Sa'id Abu Nowar announced Saturday.

He said that palm trees will be brought in from Iraq, Yemen, Oman and Saudi Arabia to help establish the garden, which will be designed to serve as a site for scouts and guides to camp in all around the year.

In the initial stages, the site will be sufficient to accommodate 1,000 campers but when the project is completed nearly 45,000 campers will be able to pitch their tents on it, Mr. Abu Nowar said.

The project also entails setting up a centre for research and nurturing particular types of plants found mainly in the desert and will include a sports city to house different types of activity, Mr. Abu Nowar added.

Developing old Aqaba

The ARDA director, who was outlining the authority's plans in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that the old part of Aqaba will be developed and those living there at present will be moved to a site just north of the city.

This new residential area is expected to accommodate mostly workers who are at present living in the old quarter, Mr. Abu Nowar said.

Another project to be implemented by ARDA is the extension of the Aqaba beach, which is of vital importance to tourism.



The modern face of the new port of Aqaba which has taken over as the major earner in the area (J.T. file photo)

According to Mr. Abu Nowar, present six kilometre beach will be further extended southwards by between two and six additional kilometres.

He said that ARDA is making plans to develop this strip to serve as a tourist attraction, and it will provide it with all types of conveniences for vacationers.

Once the beach has been properly developed, it should offer ample space for at least 5,000 families all the year round, Mr. Abu Nowar added.

According to Mr. Abu Nowar, a special tourist committee is currently in charge of carrying out projects designed to encourage tourism, and this committee will organise tourist programmes as well as trying to market Aqaba both abroad and inside Jordan.

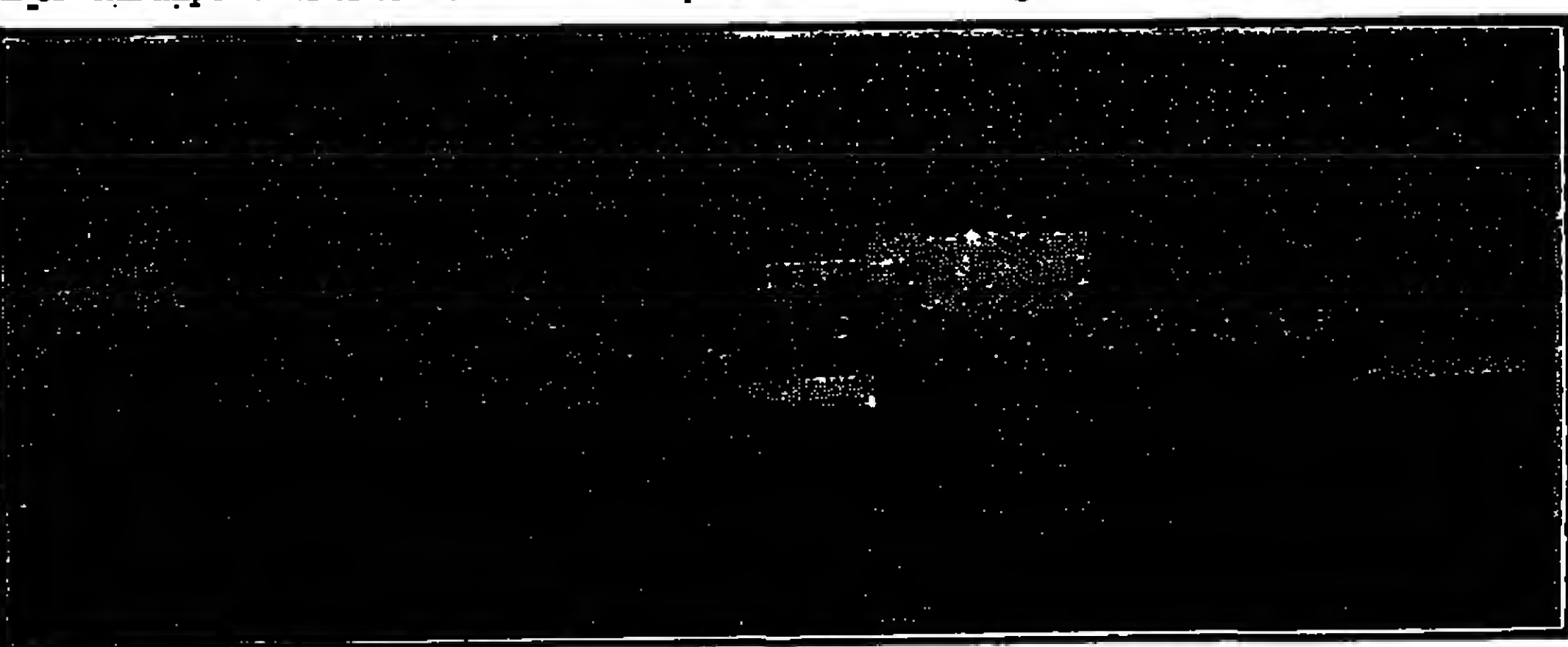
Mr. Abu Nowar said: "ARDA will co-operate with other org-

anisations in southern Jordan particularly the municipal and rural councils at Qawweirah, Disi, Twiye, and Al Hammeih and will help them financially to carry out their projects in this region."

Also ARDA intends to set up a research centre to develop agricultural and water resources in Disi and will also conduct agricultural studies in the vicinity, he said.

ARDA has assigned a 32,000 dunum piece of land situated 40 kms north of Aqaba near Qawweirah to set up a lorry park for heavy transport vehicles to ensure that they remain away from the scenic approaches to Aqaba he said.

This project should be completed in eight months and then all garages and lorry parks located on the approaches to the city will be moved to the new site, he added.



Aqaba as it used to be before the modernisation of the Red Sea town (J.T. file photo)

Jordan Times

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Shamir's new-old game

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's call on Jordan last week to open direct talks with Israel without the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should not be taken to reflect a genuine desire for peace on the part of the Israeli government, nor should it be seen in isolation of what is happening in the Middle East today. Since the Likud government has never indicated its readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and continues with its total and flagrant disregard of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, such calls as usually made by Shamir and others in his coalition are not only meaningless but also misleading and harmful to the cause of peace.

The Israeli ruling bloc has made its thinking (and conditions) clear, on a number of occasions, concerning any talks with Jordan. The latest we heard was a statement by a cabinet minister who said: "The Likud would never instigate any agreement with Jordan based on territorial compromise." Well, if Israel is ruling out "any territorial compromise" with the Arabs, what can any talks with Jordan be about? Let alone the fact that Israel makes it a binding condition that the PLO should be excluded from any peace talks.

Israel is deliberately ignoring the fact that when Jordan talks about achieving peace in the area, it talks about a just peace that involves the restoration of all occupied Arab territories and basic Arab rights. A total withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 constitutes the backbone of any just peace settlement in the area. Also equally important for Jordan is the full participation of the Palestinian people, represented as they should be by their sole and legitimate organisation, the PLO, in any peace effort.

Bearing the Jordanian position in mind and taking into consideration the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories, one should wonder about the real motives behind the Israeli prime minister's offer of last week. The answer to us is of course that Mr. Shamir's remarks cannot be detached from the Israeli perception of a solution to the Palestine problem.

For Israel, the most appropriate settlement, as is known, is an Arab recognition of its existence and acceptance of the realities created by its expansionist policies. Israel aims to achieve this through signing separate treaties with neighbouring Arab countries, subject to the Zionist state's conditions and its military preponderance in the area.

Separate treaties also lead to the fragmentation of the Palestinian issue and dwarfing it into minor border differences with the Arab front-line states. Thus, when Mr. Shamir calls for talks with Jordan, it cannot possibly be real peace that is on his mind, but rather how to subjugate Jordan to the Israeli conditions "through peaceful means." His soiled game is not for us to play.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hussein puts U.S. right

KING HUSSEIN's latest visit to the United States was a private one to undergo medical check-ups, but the King seized the opportunity to hold talks with President Reagan on the Middle East and the future of the Palestinian people. He pointed out to the American leaders the dangers inherent in Israel's aggressive policies and underlined the need to establish peace which can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. No doubt the Lebanese question and the Iraq-Iran war were also discussed in the King's meetings with the American leaders.

Washington spent its efforts last year on the Lebanese crisis, led by the belief that its solution would bring about stability to the region. But King Hussein pointed out that it was a wrong and dangerous policy because the Lebanese issue is an offshoot of the Middle East crisis and reflects the Zionists' persistence in occupying Arab land and Judaizing it. King Hussein also made it clear to the Americans that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war will be devastating not only to the peoples of the region but also to the interests of foreign nations in it.

Al Dustour: Palestine must be priority

IN HIS talks with President Reagan, King Hussein called for the Palestine question to be given priority over all other Middle East issues. He was keen to make Washington understand that Israel was paying the way in the West Bank for swallowing up all the Arab territory and in the process, Jordan will be adversely affected. In so doing, King Hussein wanted to sound out the United States' intentions about a just and durable Middle East peace, now that America's credibility has been strongly shaken in this region following its abortive policies in Lebanon.

The talks in Washington were designed to pave the way to rally international support for an Arab formula that can end the Arab-Israeli conflict and restore Palestinian rights. No doubt King Hussein's meetings with the president revealed to him the prospects for such a formula, and the outcome of the talks with Mr. Reagan will reflect on the forthcoming Jordanian-Palestinian talks. The Jordanian people welcome their leader back home now he enjoys perfect health, and renew their allegiance to the throne.

Sawt Al Shaab: Dialogue only way

AFTER THE collapse of security in Lebanon and the contraction of the Beirut government's authority, President Gemayel found himself face to face with two difficult alternatives. The first alternative is for Gemayel and his government is not to give concessions and precipitate its eventual collapse under the pressure of the opposition, and the second is to scrap the May 17 agreement with Israel regardless of the outcome of such a step.

The eight-point peace plan was in itself a concession and a compromise solution acceptable to the Gemayel government but this plan placed Beirut face to face with obstacles raised by Syria which objects to the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon. Syria's insistence on an Israeli withdrawal first does not please the Israelis who threaten to maintain their troops in Lebanon indefinitely if the Lebanese scrap the May 17 agreement. It seems then that the Lebanese government is in a rather difficult position and we again see no way out of the present difficulty except through direct dialogue among the opposing parties in a bid to reach a formula to end the conflict. The collapse of the Beirut government cannot solve the issue but it rather will aggravate the situation.

One land, two peoples = two states?

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE written before about the need for the Arabs to take a more diligent, realistic attitude towards political life and developments within Israel. Specifically, I think the Arab political establishments and their people need to recognise the scope that does exist for political change within Israeli society, and perhaps even to be so bold as to dare to promote the kind of change that we say is required for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I know, I know. Arab societies are neither pluralistic in character nor republican in structure, and thus, lacking a democratic tradition, they are unable either to appreciate or to aspire to effect political change within Israel. This may be more of an excuse than a valid reason for Arab inaction. I think it needs a drastic re-evaluation.

We have tried for years — about 36 of them, to be precise — to change the political attitudes of the American government in Washington, and have come up with what will be judged by the sober criteria of history as one of the more noteworthy political failures of the 20th Century. The more we try to deal rationally and kindly with the Americans, the more they humiliate us and strengthen their economic and military ties with Israel. The lesson should be clear.

Ironically, there appears to be more room for political change within Israel itself than within the American establishment. I have recently come back from a most interesting academic seminar at Harvard University, devoted to a discussion of the prospects for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Among the most important points made by several speakers, to my mind, was the cumulative evidence for substantial changes within the Israeli political establishment.

Several Israeli speakers, including some members of parliament, pointed to a trend within Israeli political circles that was moving in a direction that could be viewed favourably by the Arabs. A series of recent public opinion polls in Israel shows two clear trends: the first is growing opposition to the Israeli military presence in Lebanon, and the second is increasing opposition to the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Several polls in the past six months indicate that a majority of Israelis, over 60 per cent, opposes the ruling Likud coalition's no-compromise position on the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and favours a combination of freezing settlements, evacuating some of them or evacuating all of them in return for a peace agreement. This is a significant new change in Israel which could be analysed and acted upon by parties in the Arab

World that advocate a negotiated settlement.

The same polls also indicate that a majority of Israelis now feels it was wrong to launch the war in Lebanon, compared to only about one-third of Israelis who opposed it from the start. Again, the trend is the significant element to appreciate: a persistent, meaningful change in public opinion is taking place in Israel on the issues of the Lebanese war and settlements. This suggests to me that political attitudes, and therefore the policy of the government that needs to have its actions approved by the parliament, can and do evolve within Israeli society. What does this mean for us?

It means that if the political trends in Israel are moving in a direction that is favourable to, and perhaps even convergent with, trends towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the Arab World, one may be beginning to identify the outlines of key principles of a peace that would be acceptable to both sides, more particularly the Israelis and Palestinians. The two main protagonists. Can the Arabs accelerate the steady Arab movement towards acceptance of a negotiated settlement? The answer to both these questions should only logically be, yes they can.

Strivings of rationality and sensibleness in Israel are fragile things that need to be nurtured, with the hope that one day they might grow and dominate Israeli society. What, exactly, is the voice of reason saying inside Israel?

The dominant trend among reasonable Israeli political leaders recognises two related elements: the use of military force in Lebanon was doomed to failure from the start because political problems can never be solved by military means; and Israelis and Palestinians can only live together on the basis of the simultaneous and mutual recognition by both sides of national self-determination in Palestine. In other words, self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians, sovereignty and statehood for both people, and ultimately, the partition of Palestine into two states, one Israeli and the other Palestinian, living side-by-side and recognising each other.

In essence, this is the acknowledged objective of the Arabs, and of the PLO, though the terms are less clearly stated — and rightly so — because one does not want to make unilateral declarations of peace without being sure that such declarations would be reciprocated by the enemy. For the enemy, after all, is the party with whom one makes peace in the end. Similarly, this two-state solution is totally rejected by the present Israeli government, for whom even the

idea of a limited territorial withdrawal is rejected.

But this should not blind us to the changes taking place within the heartland of Israeli politics. In the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, 30 parliamentarians recently signed a petition against the settlements in the occupied territories, and most of these people are members of the newly formed "Forum of MKs for Peace" headed by Mr. Abba Eban. Much of the activity of "peace"-oriented politicians such as these Knesset members is reflected today in the work of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, based in Jerusalem.

The obvious disenchantment of Israel's Sephardic (oriental) Jews with the economic policies of the Likud government could have significant meaning in the next Israeli general election. Thus a possibility emerges for a new Israeli coalition of political forces opposed to the Likud's war in Lebanon, against more Israeli settlements, and favourable to a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinians based on the principle of simultaneous and mutual recognition of the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to national self-determination.

If the emerging coalition also accepts to negotiate peace on these terms with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), or a combination of

PLO and Arab representatives; and if the Israelis indicate that self-determination for the Palestinians means the choice of the form of their final status based on their sovereign right as free and self-determining people, then one can start envisaging a broad set of principles that would appear to be acceptable to dominant segments of both Israeli and Arab political leaderships. The initial signs from the peace-oriented Israelis are encouraging. More and more voices in Israel are saying that only a peace based on mutual and reciprocal rights for both Israelis and Palestinians would have a chance of succeeding. The Arabs have said, somewhat coyly, virtually the same thing: two states in Palestine, with equal rights, and security for all in the Middle East.

Such an emerging set of principles acceptable to Arabs and Israelis is rather novel, to say the least. It should be examined carefully, and appreciated for what it is: a historic movement by both sides towards recognition of the fact that the land of Palestine must accommodate the wishes of both Israelis and Palestinians for nationhood, sovereignty and self-respect. If elements in both camps are starting to make this point, we may be seeing rays of hope where only gloom has reigned for so long.

Iowa: The advertisements die out

By Stuart Gorin

DES MOINES, Iowa — When Iowa citizens turn on their television sets these days, they can't help but see several familiar faces — over and over again.

Between the regularly scheduled TV programmes, most of the Democratic candidates for the U.S. presidential nomination are running paid political advertisements.

As the face of a presidential hopeful appears on the screen for 30 or 60 seconds, a soothing voice tells the voters in Iowa why they should support that particular candidate.

The advertising blitz culminated Feb. 20, when Iowa voters gathered at 2,495 precinct caucuses to indicate their presidential preference by casting their ballots for delegates who will represent them at a series of nominating conventions.

Former Vice-President Walter Mondale, the acknowledged front runner who has built a strong campaign organisation in Iowa, is hopeful his TV ads will not only retain his following but also pick up some of the undecided voters.

Conversely, Mr. Mondale's opponents, especially Senators John Glenn, Alan Cranston and Gary Hart, and former Senator George McGovern, are spending thousands of dollars for their ads to try to pull support away from the front-runner.

The results of a public opinion poll released Feb. 17 showed that Mr. Mondale, Mr. McGovern, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson make the most favourable impressions during a debate held in Des Moines Feb. 11.

Among the poll's sampling of Democrats who said they plan to attend the precinct caucuses, 47 per cent were favourably impressed by the former vice-president's performance.

Forty per cent of the respondents, who could indicate their reaction to more than one candidate, were favourably impressed



by Mr. McGovern and 29 per cent by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Glenn finished in a virtual three way tie for fourth place with Mr. Hart and Mr. Cranston, each receiving around 17 per cent.

The Democratic state chairman in Iowa, Dave Nagle, a neutral observer in the precinct caucuses, says, "Mondale's way out front. I'd say the fight for second is between Glenn, Hart, and Cranston."

But the acknowledged front-runner is that Mr. Mondale is at the moment. He has gained the endorsement of many special interest groups in the United States, such as labour organisations and teachers, but no state has yet selected its delegates to July's Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

Iowa is the first state to start that process, so the national media have been focusing much attention on the midwestern state.

Voters in the other states thus will have the opportunity to see the popularity or non-popularity of the major presidential candidates here before making their own commitments.

The Democratic candidates are not counting entirely on the TV ads of course. Most are scheduling personal appearances throughout Iowa.

Mr. Mondale and Mr. Hart, at separate political rallies in Des Moines Feb. 16, attacked Reagan administration foreign and domestic policies. Mr. McGovern spoke at a Des Moines High School emphasising the programme he would follow if elected.

Former Florida Governor Reubin Askew planned to visit several Iowa cities during the weekend. The other two announced Democratic candidates, Senator Ernest Hollings and Jesse Jackson, were not expected to do much campaigning in the state.

For the others, however, the campaign also includes plenty of behind-the-scenes work being carried out by volunteers. While making phone calls, addressing envelopes or handing out campaign literature, these volunteers help their candidates reach many more potential voters while spending less of their limited campaign funds.

The Democrats had expected to gain all of the attention in Iowa. Little notice was being paid to the Feb. 20 Republican caucuses because President Reagan is running for re-election without formal opposition.

Mr. Reagan changed the situation, however, by unexpectedly scheduling campaign appearances in Iowa caucuses.

The following day, therefore, news of the president's activities will share headline space with the results of the Democratic Caucuses. — USIA.

Wafd could restructure Egypt's political scene, party leader thinks

By Dina Matar
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt's oldest party, the Wafd, is being resurrected and believes it could change the political landscape beyond recognition.

Its 75-year-old leader Fuad Seragaddin told Reuters in an interview that if general elections in May were held freely, the Wafd could wrest a majority of votes from President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

Diplomats and other analysts see him winning only 10 to 20 per cent of some 400 assembly seats. But they said this would still be the strongest and most cohesive opposition for 30 years, with unpredictable results in a country plagued by overpopulation, debt and low productivity.

Mr. Seragaddin, called "Fuad Pasha", looked frail and had a cold. He wore pyjamas and a silk robe for the interview in a chambered reception room at his palatial Cairo home.

But he seemed buoyed by two successive court victories against the government, overturning a ban on allowing the Wafd, formed in 1918, to reform as a licensed opposition party and overturning an order barring him personally from politics.

The freedom Mr. Mubarak permitted the judiciary in these cases has led politicians to speculate that the May elections will be freer than any since the 1952 Revolution which toppled King Farouk and swept the late Gamal Abdul Nasser to power.

"I believe the Wafd will get more than 50 per cent of the votes in the May elections... provided they are free," said Mr. Seragaddin.

His party was the standard bearer of Egyptian nationalism under British and monarchical rule, but was banned in Nasser's one-party state.

"It is a party for everybody. It is not a one-class party," he said, brushing off suggestions that the Wafd is too close to the upper class and citing its calls for wider freedoms, a drive against corruption and curbs on ministerial power.

He said Egypt's Wafdists were pioneering spirits behind the creation of the Arab League in 1945. He served as secretary of the old Wafd until 1953, when Nasser briefly jailed him on corruption charges.

The party name means "deliberation" and derives from a nationalist mission sent in 1918 to ask France to press Britain to end its rule in Egypt.

When Wafd reformed in 1978, it attracted supporters and won over, from desertions, 24 seats in parliament — more than any other opposition party. But five months later it suspended its activities, saying Nasser's successor, the late Anwar Sadat, had created an undemocratic atmosphere.

In the present 392-seat People's Assembly, the NDP, inherited by Mr. Mubarak from Mr. Sadat, holds 371 seats won in a poll five years ago that opponents allege was rigged.

Many politicians say Mr. Mubarak wants to dispel the image of one-man rule in Egypt. He says he welcomes constructive opposition. Strident opposition press criticism of the government is tolerated.

"Mr. Mubarak is on the right track. But we are waiting for him to implement reforms in the election system, which he has promised," Mr. Seragaddin said.

The opposition, including several small parties, chafes over the extension until now of emergency laws enacted after Muslim extremists assassinated Mr. Sadat in 1981. It is also irritated by the electoral law devised by the government requiring a party to get eight per cent of the popular vote before it can take up any seats in parliament after the May election.

Mr. Seragaddin said it was too soon to say if any of the other four opposition parties, ranging from Islamic moderates to the far left, would join the New Wafd in an anti-government front.

Mr. Mubarak's own term of office ends in 1987. If he wanted to stand again he would need to be re-elected by parliament.

But Mr. Seragaddin's comments to Reuters suggest that Wafdist parliamentarians will not necessarily vote "no".

"We need to change the existing system. But we are not against the constitution or Mr. Mubarak. We need more democracy, more freedom," he said.

"We agree with Mr. Mubarak's foreign policy. We believe in non-alignment and rapprochement with Arab countries... Israel is another matter," he added.

Mr. Seragaddin said Israel "has violated the essence of the Camp David agreements (between Israel, Egypt and the United States that led to the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty). Camp David no longer exists. Israel should withdraw to the pre-1967 border and return all rights to Palestinians."

"On domestic issues, Mr. Mubarak and the Wafd are at a crossroads... there is a certain democracy here. We need more. The economy on the other hand, is not good," he said.

Did that mean Wafdists opposed the "open door" policy to Western investments that Mr. Sadat introduced and Mr. Mubarak, although trimming luxury imports, has continued?

"No, but production should exceed consumption," he said. An aide said the Wafd had already started its election campaign. A party newspaper would be published from March and campaign leaflets were being printed.

Some 100,000 people attended a Wafd rally in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria last week, he said, adding: "It is a good beginning."

Diary

A MAJOR snag in conducting a free election campaign for the eight vacant seats in the Lower House of Parliament has been satisfactorily overcome, with a major victory for democracy. The government yesterday decreed that street banners hoisted by the individual candidates will not be interfered with, no matter what political slogan the banner may carry. Earlier, banners carrying "radical" slogans were reported by at least one candidate to have been officially removed from the streets, and protests were subsequently launched with the Ministry of the Interior to clear the issue. After study, it was decided that the complaints were justified and the candidates were duly informed that their political slogans will not be interfered with anymore. One problem remains though: Some candidates were complaining yesterday that their own competitors were bringing down the others' banners carrying only their names and invitations to vote for them. These candidates called on the police to give better protection to their street banners, and on other contestants and their supporters to refrain from "child-play". All else in the first election campaign since April, 1967 is going extremely well so far.

LIKE in many election campaigns in different countries, the financial factor is playing a dominant role in spreading the ideas and programmes of the candidates contesting the East Bank seats in the Lower House of Parliament. And, as expected, talk about the amounts of money this or that candidate is spending on his election campaign has become the focus of gossip in the various constituencies. A candidate running for the Amman seat noted that the regulations governing the election campaigns "serve only the supremacy of wealthy candidates". The candidate, who is not that well off himself, cited the high costs of street banners (posters and stickers are legally banned) as an example. "What made the matter even worse is that since the campaign has started, the prices of banner materials have jumped from JD 8 to JD 45," he said. As such, "the erection of banners in the main streets of the candidate's constituency requires a fortune that only the wealthy can afford," the candidate lamented.

MR. MA'AN Abu Nowar, the former minister of culture and youth and tourism, has decided he has had enough of politics — for now. He is planning to leave for London soon to work on a Ph.D. in an undisclosed field. Mr. Abu Nowar's links to the United Kingdom is not new, as he had served as Jordanian ambassador to the Court of St. James for a number of years prior to his return to Amman as mayor in 1976. The former minister is expected to stay in the U.K. for three years, during which he also plans to make use of his experience in journalism by corresponding with one of Jordan's Arabic dailies. As it happens, Mr. Abu Nowar is also a former minister of information, and, during his long service with the Jordanian army many years ago, he was in charge of moral guidance and other informational work at the Armed Forces.

IN THE continuing process of rehabilitating the old guard (ministers and senior officials of the Badran administration), Mr. Ali Suheimat, the former minister of transport, opted to go back to service in the private sector. Last week, he was named head of one of Jordan's biggest construction firms, the International Contracting and Investment Company (ICICO), to succeed Mr. Fakhri Abu Shakrah, who resigned his job there as director-general and chairman of the board. Mr. Suheimat, a civil engineer, brings to his new job the experience of seven years as transport minister (Queen Alia International Airport was started and completed in his tenure at the ministry, which directly supervised the project). Wide changes in the JD 4 million company are expected to result from his appointment at its head, insiders say.

THE RECENT appointment of Dr. Anis 'Ewaiss as the new mayor of the northern town of Ajloun, following his sweeping victory in municipal elections there in early January, brings to five the number of medical doctors running Jordanian cities and towns. The other four are: Irbid's Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat, Salt's Dr. Abdul Razzaq Nsour, Karak's Dr. Abdullah Dmour, Suweileh's Dr. Mohammad Dalalmeih. The number would have been six had Dr. Nofan Hmud not resigned his mayoral post in Zarqa late last year, following his disenchantment with the job and his giving up on trying to solve the too-many-problems plaguing the city. Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh is a pharmacist by profession.

L. America enters the nuclear race

By Stan Lehman
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Brazil's determination to master uranium enrichment technology, made public after neighbouring Argentina announced it already successfully had done so, has sparked fears among scientists of a South American nuclear arms race.

Argentina announced its nuclear breakthrough last Nov. 18, making it the first Latin American country with the capacity to build an atomic bomb.

Less than a month later, Brazil's Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, said this country's military-backed government had switched priorities from the construction of re-actors to the development of its own nuclear fuel cycle technology. That means the technology, needed to produce either enriched uranium or plutonium, basic ingredients for the atomic bomb.

Both countries, traditional rivals for political, military and economic leadership in South America, insist any nuclear technologies will be used only for peaceful purposes and deny the possibility of an arms race.

But physicists are sceptical.

Their fears prompted the Argentine Physics Association and the Brazilian Physics Society to sign a joint statement condemning "the production of nuclear weapons" and calling the participation of physicists in their development "morally unacceptable."

Rogério Cesar Cerqueira Leite, one of Brazil's most respected and outspoken nuclear physicists, said in a recent televised debate: "Brazil has already begun its own mini-nuclear arms race with Argentina."

"The same thing that is happening between the world's two superpowers is being repeated, on a smaller scale, between Brazil and Argentina, despite all the official denials."

Argentina's peaceful intentions were questioned by professor Luiz Pinguelli Rosa of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, a former secretary-general of the Brazilian Physics Society. He said the publicised new Argentine nuclear technology is not necessary for the production of atomic generated electricity.

"It would be absurd to start an arms race just because Argentina achieved so much progress in its atomic research," said Brig.-Gen. Hugo de Oliveira Piva, director of

the Technical Aerospace Centre, the most important of several government-controlled nuclear research institutes.

Mr. Piva and other government and military officials admit that the nuclear fuel technology Brazil hopes to master by 1990 will enable the country to build nuclear weapons. But they say there are no plans to build a bomb.

However, an unidentified government source quoted by the nationally circulated weekly news magazine Isto E said: "There is only one thing that would make Brazil build a bomb, and that's if Argentina builds one first."

According to Gen. Waldir Vasconcellos, head of Brazil's joint chiefs of staff, Brazilian nuclear research is at an "advanced stage and once nuclear technology is dominated, building a bomb is the simplest thing of all."

Brazil refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty calling it "discriminatory" against developing nations seeking technological progress.

"When there is a mechanism for all countries to do away with their nuclear weapons, then we will sign," Rex Nazare Alves, president of the National Nuclear

Energy Commission said in an interview.

Government claims that its nuclear programme is solely aimed at guaranteeing the country's future energy needs have not convinced Brazilian physicists.

In an interview with Isto E, physicist Cerqueira Leite said Brazilian military leaders "are getting ready to build a bomb. They are not making atoms for peace."

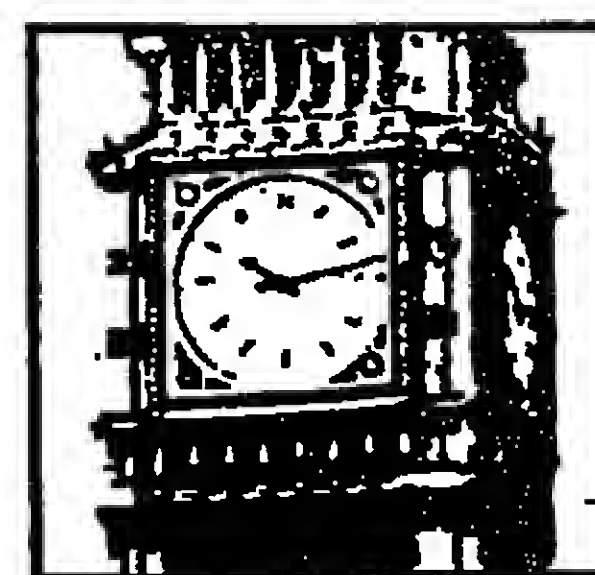
For Mr. Cerqueira Leite, the 1975 Brazil-West Germany nuclear agreement "was part of the government's overall objective to obtain technology so as to be able to one day build the bomb."

The agreement called for the construction of eight 1.3 million kilowatt re-actors by 1990, a uranium enrichment plant and a spent-fuel reprocessing plant to produce plutonium. Economic recession led the government to delay the project with only one of the eight re-actors partially built.

A smaller U.S.-built reactor exists in Brazil, but it has been plagued by delay, cost overruns and mechanical breakdowns. The American project was for the reactor, within separate nuclear technological installations.

Britons brush off old days' soot

By Raymond Gijzen
Reuter



LONDON — With Big Ben packed in scaffolding and plastic, London's centre is reaching the final stages of a cleaning operation of over two decades which has brightened up this once black and dusty capital.

Around Trafalgar Square and Whitehall, as well as in other scattered parts of London, an uncoordinated wave of sandblasting and spraying has scrubbed off the dust and pollution of two centuries of industrialisation.

The work on Big Ben, whose sonorous bells are recognised worldwide as the voice of Greenwich Mean Time and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), is part of a clean-up at the Houses of Parliament likely to continue for the rest of the 1980s.

The final result is already becoming visible as parliament's dark and grey features have given way on the northern side to cream-coloured stones.

London's clean-up has been made possible by a series of laws against air pollution.

Britons traditionally relied on coal as their major source of industrial and domestic energy. Until well after World War II, coal fumes were the country's main cause of air pollution.

In London's sprawling mass of small houses, millions of chimneys daily sent soot and grit particles into the atmosphere. This, added to traffic fumes and the excrement of the many pigeons, formed a layer of black acid deposits on buildings.

The city regularly had to endure heavy smog, a mixture of yellow and black smoke and thick fog which frequently cut visibility to less than a yard in the streets and hampered breathing.

The 1952 killer fog, which hung over London for five days and killed 4,000 people, forced the government into action.

The 1956 and 1968 clean air acts gave the authorities the power to declare "smoke control areas" within which it was illegal to create smoke while heating a building. This forced consumers to switch to smokeless fuels like electricity or gas.

The clean air acts made it worthwhile for the first time for owners of buildings to consider cleaning up dirty facades. With clean air over London they could expect a long-lasting result from their investment.

Aesthetic reasons predominated in the early days, but this has changed," says Jim Paul, marketing manager of one of the many stone cleaning companies which have profited from the cleaning boom here. It is now realised, he says, that maintaining a building requires regular cleaning.

The £8.5 million operation at the Houses of Parliament also involves replacing damaged stones with the more resistant claspstone. Mr. Lewis, describing the works as "extremely successful" says Big Ben is scheduled to shed its scaffolding by October 1984.

Tourists can no longer enjoy Ishigaki

Plans to build a large new airport on the Japanese island of Ishigaki — levelling a beautiful nearby peak to provide building material — will destroy some of the very reefs that have made the island such a tourist attraction. A coalition of university professors and local farmers are organising a petition against the plan.

By Katherine Muzik

ISHIGAKI ISLAND, Japan — The Japanese government plans to build a new airport on Ishigaki Island so more tourists can enjoy the beautiful coral reefs. The site they have chosen is one of the very reefs that attracts the tourists in the first place.

Ishigaki is one of the Ryukyu Islands (the biggest of which is Okinawa) which sweep southwards through the China Sea towards Taiwan. Japan has invested great sums of money in the islands since their reversion from U.S. control in 1972. Roads, dams, bridges, harbours, breakwaters, housing, hotels and industrial parks have all been built.

At just 227 square kilometres, Ishigaki is a small island, but it is home to 41,000 people, mostly farmers and fishermen. It already has an airport which handles over 200,000 tourists a year. But this airport cannot take jumbo jets, so tourists must fly to Okinawa and change planes.

The new airport, to be built over the next seven years, will be in the village of Shiraho (population: 2000) on the island's southeast coast. Here, fishermen have for centuries derived their living from the fish, shellfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and other marine life

on the coral reef in Shiraho lagoon.

To the north of the village is Karadake peak, only 136 metres high but of considerable tourist appeal, especially when covered with lilies in the springtime. It also plays its part in island culture. Each New Year Islanders climb it to greet the dawn, and throughout the year fishermen use it to find their way at sea.

Plans for the airport call for Karadake peak to be levelled and, in essence, dumped into Shiraho lagoon. The airport will cover 1.3 million square metres and destroy at least 3.6 kilometres of the reef, one of the few thriving reefs left in all of the Ryukyu Islands.

The local government is keen on the new airport, which it expects to bring more visitors, more jobs and more money. The governor of Okinawa, Junji Nishime, even took care to explain that "the existence of the great reef makes it easy to reclaim land". His attitude reflects those of planners in Hawaii, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, Indonesia and the Red Sea, where many reefs are dead or dying.

Opposition to the airport is being organised by a peculiar coalition of Ishigaki fishermen and farmers and Shiraho-born pro-

fessors working at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa. All from their different vantage points, want to preserve Ishigaki's marine life, culture and natural beauty.

"It is very unfortunate and most unreasonable that our government is planning a new airport in the middle of the most beautiful and productive part of the sea — in spite of the fact that the existing airport is sufficient for the island's capacity," said Dr. Yuji Yonemori, professor of philosophy at the university.

"This airport is death for the Shiraho fishermen. So we will protest against the plan in a do-or-die spirit," warned Sho Nae-domari, a Shiraho fisherman.

But as yet the protest, based on the signing of petitions against the airport, has been poorly organised. The Japanese in general and the conservative islanders in particular have little tradition of protest. A few years ago Ishikunayama, a mountain symbolising the origin of the Ishigaki people, was levelled for construction material, with little opposition.

Coral is an animal, a fragile creature growing as a thin layer of skin over the hard calcium skeleton it secretes. It grows slowly, forming only about one centimetre of skeleton a year, and then only if it has the right mix of sunlight, clean sea water, nutrients and currents.

The reefs around Ishigaki are

already suffering from the run-off from shoreline construction and from the fertilisers, pesticides and topsoil which farming sends into the sea. If the airport does bring more tourists, the increased sewage and pollution they produce are likely to finish off the reefs.

The reefs are also just beginning to recover from a plague of the coral-eating "Crown of Thorns" starfish, which has decimated other Pacific reefs. Recent research suggests that humans cause such plagues by removing the natural predators of the starfish and their larvae (edible fish and attractive shellfish), or by giving the starfish larvae a helping hand through the nutrients of agricultural run-off.

Reefs provide physical barriers against tidal waves and storms; they provide homes for creatures important to humans; reef animals are providing to be sources of antibiotics and anti-viral compounds, and some corals appear to have anti-cancer compounds.

But around the world, reefs are succumbing to the effects of pollution from farms, industry, power stations and sewage plants; from physical destruction to make way for shoreline development and even from an international trade in "pretty" corals.

The island of Ishigaki may provide a lesson for planners around the world. As one fisherman commented: "Tourists do not come to Ishigaki to look at airports". — Earthscan feature.

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Karin Enke of East Germany — a quadruple-medallist with two gold and two silver

Best Olympics in history, a triumph to Yugoslavia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Olympic Flame was extinguished in Sarajevo Sunday night to end the 14th Winter Games.

Representatives of the record 49 competing nations marched from the 518.5 m Zetra ice rink and the flame, kindled in Ancient Olympia, was doused after International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch had declared the games closed during a 40-minute ceremony.

Among the flag bearers were some of the names the 12-day snow and ice spectacular had immortalised. There was Marja-Liisa Haemaelainen, Finland's triple gold medallist, U.S. skier Phil Mahre, who became an Olympic champion and father Sunday, and Carl Erik Eriksson, Sweden's bob driver who retired after a record six Olympics at the age of 54.

The games, described by Samaranch as the best in Olympic history, were a triumph for Yugoslavia which had fought for the right to stage them and struggled for six years to make them reality. The closing ceremony, which ended with athletes joining arms and dancing, typified the smooth efficiency and smiling hospitality which has characterised the first Winter Games staged in a communist country.

Samaranch said: "Athletes, officials, members of the media, spectators, you have all contributed and may be proud of the wonderful success of the games. They will remain forever in our hearts and memories."

The five-ringed Olympic flag was then lowered and borne from the glittering rink by 10 Yugoslav cadets.

Its departure prompted an enthusiastic and emotional display by some 260 young skaters and dancers.

Dancing too was Vucko, the Roguish Wolf mascot of the games, and, after descending from the ceiling, the white bear mascot of Calgary, Canada, where the 15th games will be held in 1988.

Surprising, predictable, traditional, unprecedented

Thirteen days and 117 medals later, the XIV Winter Olympics are history.

How will they be remembered? Probably as the least political, the most sporting and amongst the most colourful in the history of

Winter Games.

They were both surprising and predictable, traditional and unprecedented. For nearly a fortnight, some 1,600 athletes from 49 nations — the most ever in Winter Games — strove in a single cause, that of excellence.

They hurtled like avalanches down Balkan mountains, spun like tops on clear blue ice, drove themselves across miles of snowbound massif and leapt up over pine forests, sneering equally at gravity and mortality.

They put on a show of which they can be justly proud.

Who was the biggest hero? Was it a physiotherapist from eastern Finland, cross-country skier Marja-Liisa Haemaelainen, who mushed across Mount Igman to capture every individual gold in her sport, and had enough left over to anchor her country's relay team to a silver medal?

"I didn't feel like I had the spirit," she said, exhausted after winning her last race. "But this morning, I was angry — not for any reason, but because that's the way you have to feel before a race."

Or was it Karin Enke, the East German speed-skater who was the games' other quadruple-medallist with two gold and two silver. A superstar? "Let us wait until after the games are over," she said after winning the 1,000 metres.

The games are over, and indeed she is a superstar.

Perhaps the biggest hero was a couple from Britain, a former insurance clerk and a former policeman, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, who rose and swayed to Ravel's "Bolero" looking less like skaters than an Indian deity with four arms and four legs. They remade their sport in their own image and came closer than any before them to the Olympian ideal of perfection.

Perhaps it was the Soviet ice hockey team, not only undefeated throughout but unscored-upon in the playoff round, an awesome red horde sweeping all before it on the ice to recapture the arena they yielded to the Americans four years ago in Lake Placid.

Or was it the U.S. ski team, which finally broke Europe's decades-long hold on the men's alpine events? Bill Johnson captured the men's downhill, and the Mahre twins, Phil and Steve, finished one-two in the men's slalom.

The American women weren't bad either, with a 1-2 finish by Debbie Armstrong and Christine Cooper in the giant slalom.

More likely it was the handful of new faces who clasped precious Olympic metal for the first time. Youngsters like Vichela Fignini of Switzerland, just 17, who conquered Mount Jahorina in the women's downhill.

Or like Gunde Svan, a 22-year-old soldier in the Swedish army, who took two gold medals, a silver and a bronze in men's cross-country races.

Or like Wolfgang Hoppe, 26, a former decathlete who switched to bobsled two years ago and drove West Germany's two-and-four man sleds to gold on the spectacular rustic course on Mount Trebevic.

Or, particularly, like East German figure skater Katarina Witt, who outskated world champion Rosalynn Summers of the United States but didn't realise until she looked at the scoreboard that she'd won the gold.

"I realise now that I'm the Olympic champion," said the 18-year-old high school student from Karl-Marx-Stadt. "But I think it will take me a couple of months or when I return home to really comprehend it."

On the other hand, perhaps the biggest heroes were the veterans who had tried to climb the mountain before, but had never made it to the summit before these games.

Canada's Gaetan Boucher stood in Eric Heiden's shadow at Lake Placid, taking a silver medal while the American won five golds. Four years later, it was Boucher who took gold, twice, along with a bronze. "It's all different now because he is no here," Boucher said. "Now everybody has a chance to win."

Perhaps the man with the highest mountain to climb was figure skater Scott Hamilton. Stricken at age five with a disease that stunted his growth, he took up skating — and struggled, figure by figure, first to health, then to Olympic gold.

But perhaps the biggest hero of these games was no individual or couple or team, but the Olympic spirit.

For 13 days, athletes from 49 of the world's nations competed with dedication, sportsmanship and good humour.

With that kind of record, it's too bad Olympic games don't happen more often.



Britains Torvill and Dean — close to the Olympian ideal of perfection

Chinese basketball team arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb Sunday attended meetings of the Jordan Basketball Federation which was held at the federation's headquarters. Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb urged the national team players to exert more effort to depict the development of basketball which has achieved good standards at the Arab level and displayed distinguished performances on the Asian level.

Federation Chairman Vudar Al Majdoub delivered a speech stressing the confidence accorded to the team by the federation and the public.

Meanwhile the Chinese basketball champion team, Nanking, comprising 11 players, four of whom play in the national Chinese team which won the last Asian Championship title and who will be representing China at Los Angeles Olympics, arrived in Amman Sunday.

They were received at Queen Alia Airport by Mr. Al Majdoub, Secretary General, Alaz Kheir and Raja Al Sukkar, chairman of public relations committee.

Issuing a circular to the clubs not to employ any Egyptian trainer unless he produces a certificate to the effect that he is allowed by the Egyptian Football Federation to practice training.

1. Approving Wihdat's request for inviting Alexandria Football Club to play two matches in Jordan on March 18 and 23.

2. Issuing a circular to the clubs not to employ any Egyptian trainer unless he produces a certificate to the effect that he is allowed by the Egyptian Football Federation to practice training.

3. The association has received Iraq's approval to take part in the Arab Cup Championship which will be held in Amman in May.

JFA approves Alexandria soccer team invitation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Chairman of Jordan Football Association (JFA), Mustafa Al Odwan Sunday presided over the association's weekly meeting.

During the session the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Approving Wihdat's request for inviting Alexandria Football Club to play two matches in Jordan on March 18 and 23.

2. Issuing a circular to the clubs not to employ any Egyptian trainer unless he produces a certificate to the effect that he is allowed by the Egyptian Football Federation to practice training.

3. The association has received Iraq's approval to take part in the Arab Cup Championship which will be held in Amman in May.

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Lone Olympians almost steal Sarajevo show

By Kevin Dunn
Reuters

SARAJEVO — The medals may have gone to the Johnsons and Torvill and Dean but competitors like Egyptian skier Jamil El Reedy almost stole the show at the Winter Olympics.

El Reedy, and other lone participants from Mexico to Monaco, never aspired to a place on the podium.

But faithful to the Olympic ideal that to compete is as important as to win, they enlivened and enriched for 12 days the most spectacular of winter sports festivals.

Only 18, Jamil El Reedy may have more Olympic Games before him. But in Sarajevo he and other amateur sportsmen won the hearts of hardened fans by easy affability and infectious enthusiasm.

Cairo-born and resident in the U.S., El Reedy could never hope to match the giants of the downhill like Kaiser Franz Klammer or his young American heir Bill Johnson.

So slow was he in practice that he was the only competitor kept out of the starting draw. Officials insisted he skied last in case he was overtaken on the way down the

slope.

But on race day he was unworried by the seconds ticking up on the electronic scoreboard.

Halfway down the Bjelasnica course he fell. But unlike the regular downhillers, scrambled to his feet and won his personal battle against the Bjelasnica mountain, finishing more than a minute behind the next slowest skier.

"One day I would love to win a gold medal myself. But I was happy just to finish. Everyone should have the right to compete in the Olympics," the slight, curly-haired stockbroker's son said.

"If, by competing, I can help promote alpine skiing in Egypt I will be happy," he added.

Another solitary representative, and one of the most popular athletes in the Olympic village, was big, beaming George Tucker — Puerto Rico's entry in the hair-raising men's luge.

Fair-haired Tucker's hobbies of scuba-diving and windsurfing seem more fitting to a native of the Caribbean than the refrigerated ice walls of the luge run. But it was here the engaging 36-year-old made his bid for sporting fame. After crossing the finishing line

last, far behind the European giants who dominate the daredevil sport, Tucker was elated. "I'm just glad to get here," he said.

There were others too, like 33-year-old speed skater Errol Fraser of the Virgin Islands.

Crowning a lifetime ambition to compete in the Olympics, he trekked from West Germany where he trains to Sarajevo and was admitted to the games only days before the opening ceremony but plenty of determination.

He had no flag to carry at the opening ceremony but plenty of determination.

Solemnly declining interviews to concentrate on his events, he trained with the diligence of a champion and won his own reward — beating two other competitors in the 500 and 1,000 metres races.

The Olympic spirit was best summed up by the first black African to race in a Winter Games downhill, Senegal's Lamine Gueye.

An occasional film actor and model, Gueye was realistic enough to admit: "I am not a great skier."

But he added: "For me the most important thing is to take part, just as modern Olympics founder Baron Pierre Coubertin said."

Connors beats Noah, wins La Quinta classic

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Number one seed Jimmy Connors, playing in top form, beat Yannick Noah of France 6-2, 6-7, 19-7, 0-3 Sunday to win the \$34,000 top prize in the \$255,000 La Quinta Classic Tennis Tournament.

Noah, who received \$17,000, battled back to even the match in the second set after several line calls against him had affected his composure.

But Connors came through in the final set, lobbing and passing Noah on his way to a third victory

in this event. It was his fifth win in five matches against Noah.

"I felt I was jumping on my returns pretty well today," he said. "I enjoy playing him — it's a good game for me to play against."

Connors, who used the lob to advantage, added: "The lob doesn't work too often against him, but what it does is keep him honest. He jumps around a lot and moves so well that it's hard to hit them for winners against him."

Noah was calm in defeat. "I just did my best, but he beat me because he was the better player."

Asked how he approached playing Connors, Noah said: "The way to play him is to attack his forehand, come in, but he passed too well and lobbed me too. And it's hard to come in on the first serve because his service return is his best shot."

Noah, who won the French Open last year, said he was satisfied with his play. "This is the most confidence I've felt on the court since the French Open," he said.

In the doubles, Butch Walts of the United States and Bernie Vitton of South Africa beat Americans Scott Davis and Ferdi Taygan 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Tanzanian Shahanga wins Los Angeles marathon

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gidama Shahanga of Tanzania pulled away in the late going and Canada's Jacqueline Gareau battled the whole way as they won the men's and women's titles in the 1984 Los Angeles International Marathon run Sunday on the Summer Olympics course.

Shahanga broke loose from Joseph Nzau of Kenya with two miles (3.2 km) to go and scored a comfortable 21-second victory in a time of two hours, 10 minutes and 19 seconds. Nzau was second in

2:10:40 and Gerald Nijboer of the Netherlands was third in 2:10:53.

Gareau dued Ann Audain of New Zealand most of the way and was a 10-second winner with a time of 2:31:57. Audain held on for second with her clocking of 2:32:07. Her teammate, Mary O'Connor, was a distant third in 2:33:44.

"It was one of the fastest courses I've ever run on," said Shahanga, a 26-year-old running in only his fifth marathon. Shahanga's best time in a marathon was 2:11:05 in New York last year.

"I made my big move with two miles to go and Nzau didn't go with me. I felt like I had a enough speed to outprint him at the end if it came to that."

The race served as the Olympic trials for Kenya and Mexico. Nzau qualified for the Kenyan Olympic team along with Simeon Kigen, who was sixth in 2:12:50 and Ben Mouri, who was 12th in 2:18:09.

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WATER AUTHORITY ZARQA — RUSEIFA WATER & SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT 1, 2A, 8 and 10
Prequalified contractors for contracts 1, 2A, and 10 and contractors who purchased tender documents for contract 8 are hereby notified that changes in the bidding documents will be issued soon and that the bid opening dates for these contracts have been extended as follows:-
Contract 1 - April 2, 1984
Contract 2A - March 31, 1984
Contract 8 - March 31, 1984
Contract 10 - April 4, 1984
Mohammad S. Kilani
President

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 FLASHDANCE (Colour) Performances: 3-6 - 8:30	Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 IRON MASTER Colour American Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8	Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 25155 RIDER ON THE RAIN Colour American Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30	Cinema ZAHARAN Tel: 23171 SKI INSTRUCTOR (Colour) "Italian film" Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8	Cinema BASMAN Tel: 30126 BLOODY REVENGE (Colour) "Indian film" Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8	Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 1- END OF A BAD MAN Indian 2- BANANA JO American Performances: 12-3-7	Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198 WE ARE THE AMBULANCE Arabic Colour Performances: 12-3-5:30-8
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Contributions expected to meet IFAD needs

ABU DHABI (R) — The president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said Monday he expected contributions from the organization's 139 member-countries to meet project needs between 1984 and 1987.

Mr. Abdul Muhisin Al Sudeary, ending a three-week Gulf visit to discuss contribution ahead of the U.N. agency's Feb. 29 meeting in Rome, said the fund needed \$1.2 to \$1.4 billion to fulfil commitments over the next three years.

Mr. Sudeary visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The fund began operating in 1977 with \$1 billion and received its first replenishment, \$1.1 billion, in 1982, of which \$620 million came from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, \$450 million from OPEC and \$30 million from other members.

All OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) except Iran had notified the IFAD of their intention to renew contributions, Mr. Sudeary said. He said the fund had helped finance 136 projects in more than 70 countries.

Saudi cement plant to expand

ESSEN, West Germany (AP) — West German industrial giant Krupp said Monday it received an order for a sixth cement production line near Riyadh which takes its total current Saudi order volume to almost 1 billion marks (\$377 million).

The Beckum-based Krupp Polysius AG already has erected five production lines for the Yamama Saudi Cement Co. Ltd. on the outskirts of Riyadh.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mostly easier after a quiet session with trading dampened by the U.S. holiday, dealers said. Among leaders Hawker and Lucas shed 4p apiece at 394 and 214 respectively. Bowater fell 3p to 256 and Thorn fell 2p to 624. ICI was steady at 602 but Vickers added a penny at 143. BHP firmed 40p at 932 after news of a one for five capitalisation issue after a bid for 16 million of its shares by Bell resources.

Government bonds were trading around 1/4 point easier after initial mark downs of up to 1/2 point. Gold shares were higher with bullion. North American shares were quietly steady.

Oils continued easier in reaction to recent gains with Burmah 5p lower at 188. B.P. was 7p down at 428. Monday morning the company said its second South China Sea well was dry and had been abandoned.

STC was 6p down at 278 after 270 following full year results. Extel added 25p to 521 on press comment while London and Liverpool Trust shed 4p to 14 1/2 also after press mention. At 1500 the F.T. index fell 4.6 to 811.6 and the LSE 100 index was down 4.2 at 1034.8.

Banks firmed with Lloyds 5p up at 559. Nat West rose 2p to 724 on Friday's news it plans to take a stake in Bisgood Bishop.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4450/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2487/90	Canadian dollars
	2.6890/6900	West German marks
	3.6940/50	Dutch guilders
	2.2035/45	Swiss francs
	55.04/09	Belgian francs
	8.2900/50	French francs
	1663.25/1664.25	Italian lire
	233.28/38	Japanese yen
	7.9650/9850	Swedish crowns
	7.6575/6675	Norwegian crowns
	9.8025/8125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	384.70/385.20	U.S. dollars

UAE commodity traders are in a bind

DUBAI (R) — Commodity traders and importers in the northern United Arab Emirates, faced with huge debts with commercial banks on the one hand and weak markets on the other, are in a bind.

Many have taken big losses in recent years because of a downswing in prices of commodities, particularly sugar, where almost every trader has lost money as the world price collapsed below seven cents a pound from 44 cents three years ago.

A weakening economy in the emirates, because of a sharp drop in oil revenues and a big reduction in the important re-export trade to Iran, has doubled their problems.

Senior bankers estimate bank loans to traders in the six emirates would be around two billion dirhams (\$550 million), of which between 500 to 700 million dirhams (\$140 million to \$190 million) could be considered dubious.

The Dubai Chamber of Commerce lists about 80 business houses engaged in importing food commodities, excluding meat and livestock importers and store chains.

But only half a dozen or so are large traders, importing soft commodities and grains, principally rice, sugar and edible oils, but also coffee, wheat and soya products.

Bankers, who remarked that loans to traders did not constitute a major part of bank portfolios,

said most loans are still good, some because they are secured against the non-commodity assets of the leading traders.

However, the quality of the banks' loans to traders has not been helped by the common practice in the emirates of "lending to names" — prominent figures whose credit ratings have often been overestimated, rather than giving loans to finance specific projects.

In a recent case, a large rice and sugar importer, which has now ceased most of its operations in Dubai because of the bleak trading outlook, faced problems because of reverses in trade with Iran and delays in payments from Nigeria.

Bankers said they expected most of the money owed to them to be repaid eventually after funds were released by the new military government in Lagos.

In another case, a creditor bank had to take over large stocks of rice imported by a Dubai merchant for Iran but which Iran had supposedly refused to lift.

Traders said the bank is still clearing the stocks.

Commodity traders said they did not expect a further market deterioration but spectacular improvement was considered unlikely, particularly with Iran importing more goods on a direct government-to-government basis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani experts want overseas jobs

ISLAMABAD (R) — Three-quarters of top professional workers in Pakistan want to work abroad, according to a report on a government survey published Sunday. The survey, which polled over 25,000 doctors, engineers, scientists and agricultural experts, showed that just over half of those interviewed wanted to go to Saudi Arabia, the Islamabad daily Muslim reported. About 15 per cent wanted to go to the United States, while others expressed preferences for Britain, Libya, Nigeria and Canada, the paper said, quoting a survey by the national talent pool.

Mitsui, Taisei to build hotel in Colombo

TOKYO (AP) — Mitsui and Co. said Monday it and Taisei Corp., a Japanese construction firm, have signed a 1.3 billion yen (\$59 million) contract to build a 20-story, 400-room hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Under the contract with hotel developers (Lanka) Ltd. of Sri Lanka, Taisei is to build the hotel by October 1986, Mitsui spokesman Mr. Koji Ishikawa said. He said the hotel will be operated by Hilton International Co. of the United States. Hotel developers (Lanka) is capitalised at 4.5 billion yen (\$19 million) and is owned 51 per cent by the Sri Lanka government, 25 per cent by Mitsui and Taisei and 24 per cent by Cornet and Co., and other local firms, Mr. Ishikawa said.

Hungary, UAE discuss oil barter deal

ABU DHABI (R) — Hungary and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been discussing the possibility of trading Hungarian goods in exchange for oil from the emirates, a senior Hungarian official said Monday. Mr. Tamas Beck heading a five-man trade delegation, told a press conference it was still too early to say how much oil his country wanted to buy. "...it may be one or two million tonnes," he added. Mr. Beck said his mission had held "fruitful talks" with UAE officials and businessmen on possible joint ventures in third countries. The possibility of setting up a permanent trade centre in the UAE had been discussed, he said. Mr. Beck said Hungarian exports to the UAE totalled \$12 million in 1983.

EC ministers discuss terms to admit Spain

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers battled against a tight deadline Monday in an attempt to agree conditions making possible Spain's entry by 1986, diplomats said.

The conditions are due to be passed on to Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran Tuesday when negotiations begin in earnest after several years' delay in processing Spain's application to join the Common Market.

Diplomats said the 10 ministers were deeply divided in talks Monday on how to treat Spanish farm products during a transition period.

France, which recently lifted objections blocking the Spanish entry, advocated the earliest possible entry date but with immediate very tough restrictions, they added.

A majority of other member states favoured a German-Italian compromise which would leave open controversial questions such as the treatment of Spanish wine and olive oil, both products where community stocks are in embarrassingly large surplus.

The ministers were meeting privately Monday evening in a new attempt to bridge their differences, hoping to present an agreed position to Mr. Moran Tuesday.

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe was quoted by his officials as saying the conditions under discussion were inequitable and unlikely to be acceptable to Spain.

He regretted that the community sought protection of its own market in farm products while advocating free access for its industrial exports to Spain, they added.

But he argued it was better to present agreed conditions to Spain Tuesday than to hold up negotiations. The community could reserve the right to request later alterations.

The conditions will include a seven-year transition period for non-sensitive products such as cereals and dairy produce.

The ministers have yet to agree on Spain's main exports, its fruit and vegetables.

A majority have proposed a 10-year transition period including severely limited access during the first three to five years, diplomats said.

Economist says members threaten OPEC unity

KUWAIT (AP) — The 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "will inevitably collapse" in light of its alleged inability to defend the interests of its own member countries, a noted Kuwaiti economist contended Monday.

Dr. Saud Al Sabah, a woman professor at the Kuwait University and a member of the royal family, told the newspaper Al Anbaa that OPEC member countries have been "locked in rivalries and political bickering, which threaten the very continuity of the organisation."

"One factor accounting for the portents of collapse is Saudi Arabia's inability to carry on its role as the leader of OPEC," she said. "Another factor is the inability of the organisation to continue indefinitely to control non-OPEC oil producers — such as Britain and Mexico — which are subject to U.S. pressures."

Dr. Al Sabah said that, unless demand for crude oil goes up again, the "surplus production capacity of the OPEC countries stand to aggravate the problems of competition and outbidding between the members of the organisation."

She cited the Iraq-Iran war as one example of political bickering between OPEC member countries.

"Nigeria, also, is sensitive about the OPEC-decreed quotas for individual member countries," she said. "Venezuela is perennially restless about market conditions, production and pricing systems. These add to the factors that might precipitate the collapse of the organisation."

Dr. Al Sabah said the OPEC "might be able to continue to exist only if it were able to develop a production programme which, with a bit of realism, could persist until the current crisis is over and demand picks up."

She was obviously alluding to the retreat in demand and the alleged glut in oil markets.

She said that, in retrospect "the OPEC countries stand to fall again... because in 1979 the Arab Gulf states were not able to lower their production ceiling upon the downfall of the Shah of Iran."

Japan, U.S. start talks

TOKYO (R) — Japan will come under strong pressure to act quickly to cut its enormous trade surplus when trade talks open here Tuesday with the United States. Last year Japan's exports exceeded its imports by \$31.65 billion and the United States, Japan's largest customer, suffered most. Japanese figures show the bilateral deficit reached \$18.13 billion. Japanese foreign ministry sources said the talks will bring together agriculture, trade and finance officials. The United States wants Japan to allow freer beef imports, ending restrictions aimed at protecting inefficient local farmers. It will also call for a stronger yen. Keeping the yen undervalued against other currencies, makes Japanese products cheap and helps to stimulate huge overseas demand. Other items on the agenda during this week's talks will be the protection of computer software, possible Japanese purchases of U.S. coal and gas, and the Japanese banking industry.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Investigate whatever is enigmatic or a mystery to you; delve into such and you come up with correct answers. The evening finds your emotions conflicting with your reason.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find better ways for handling monetary and property matters. Try to please your mate in the evening. Be happy together and smile more.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Talk over contracts with partners and compromise if necessary. Outside situations are good during the day, but not tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Keep busy occupied at the work you have promised to do. Work on hobby in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Find out what your mate and good friends want you to do where amusement is concerned.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find out what is expected of you by those who live with you. Relax tonight. Evening is not good for entertaining.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go to the right sources for the data you need. In the evening, get into proven recreations. Care in driving is important.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Apply yourself seriously to practical matters; you can get much accomplished. Don't commit yourself to anything tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to see how you can better yourself and become happier. Get in touch with friends who can give you advice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you concentrate on more of the worthwhile things of life and stop wasting time with gossip, you can get ahead faster.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good friend can give you advice. Avoid a group where arguments and gossip can be prevalent. Be logical.

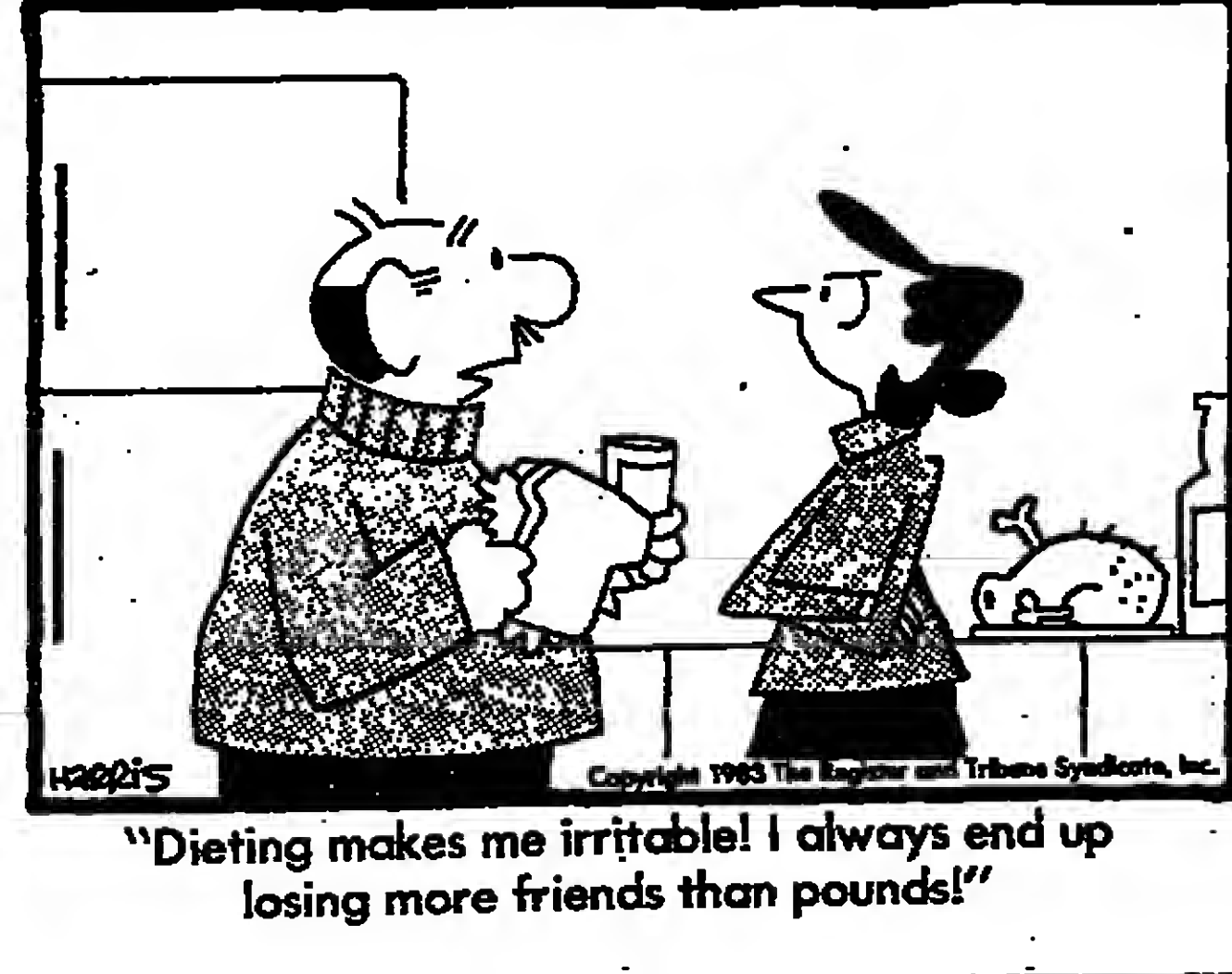
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle your career affairs conscientiously. Avoid a bigwig who is fixed in his own views. Take a little time for recreation.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) New ideas should be put in motion so that you can get ahead much faster. Steer clear of newcomers. Show loyalty to trusted friends.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who will be warm, magnetic, have a marvelous physical quality and be athletic. See to it that all that energy is channeled correctly. Your progeny will become very business-minded later in life.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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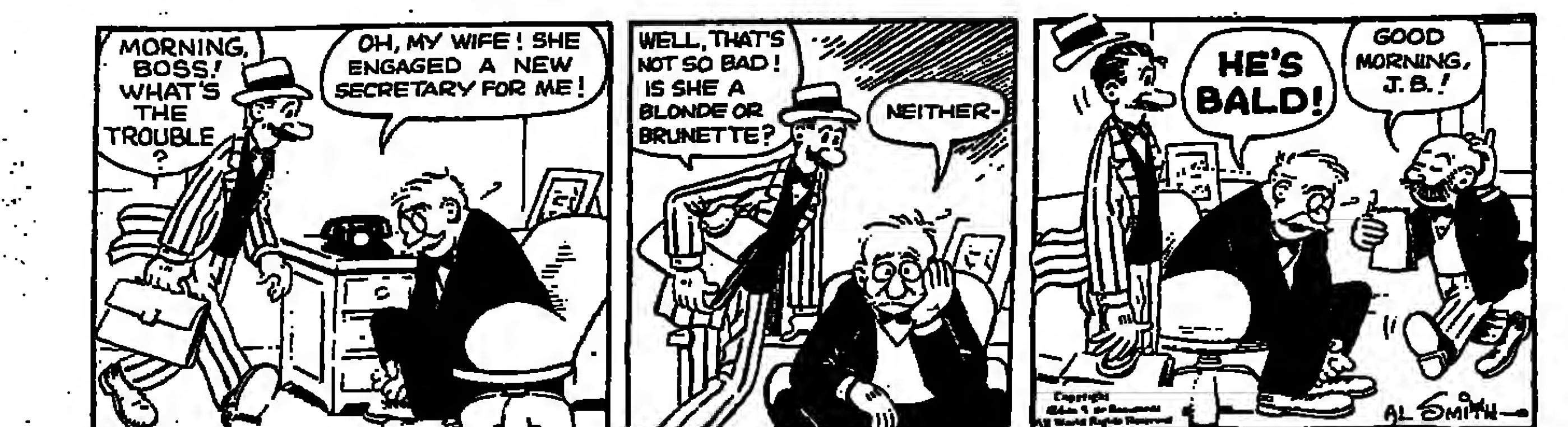
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

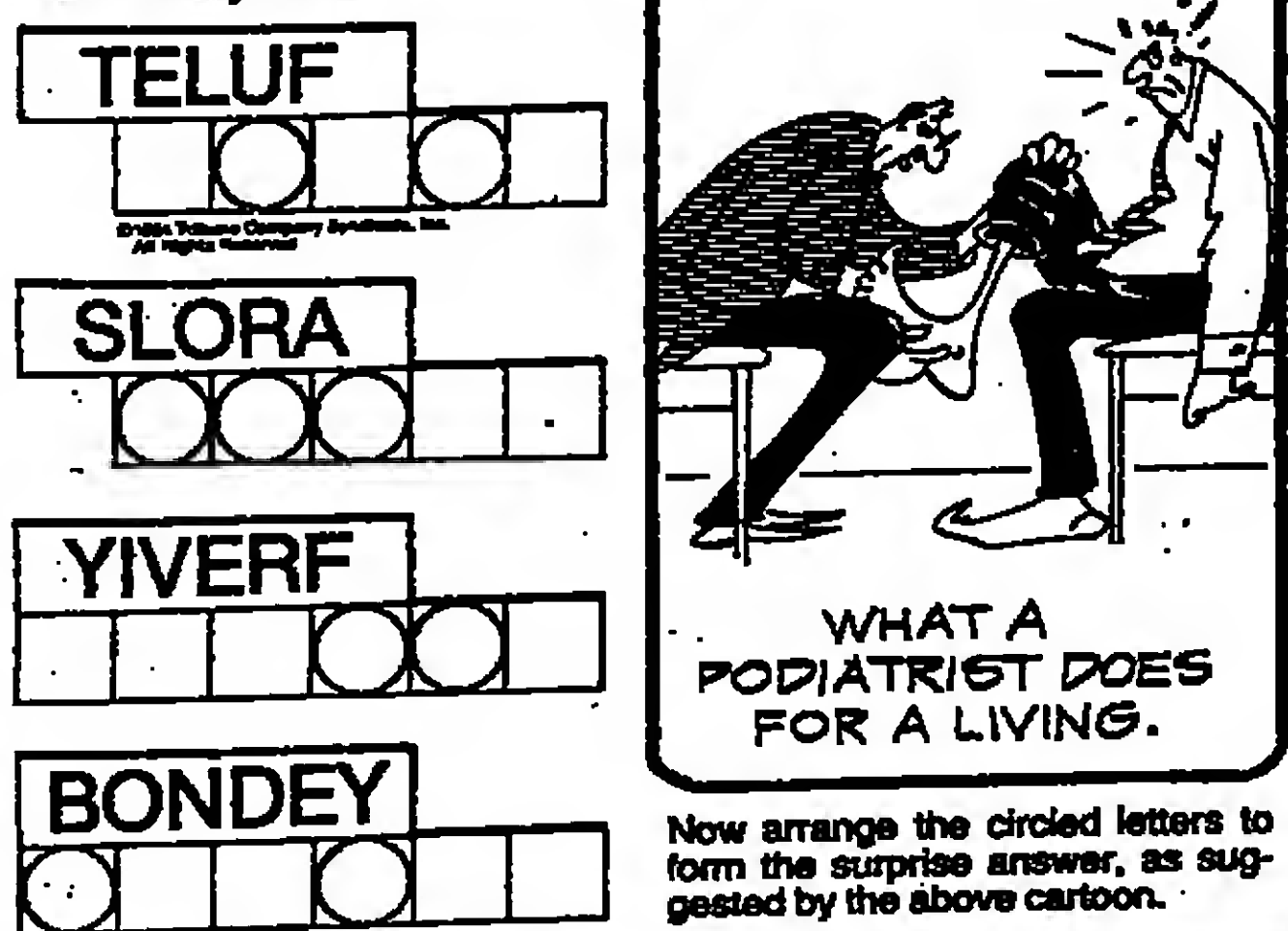


Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

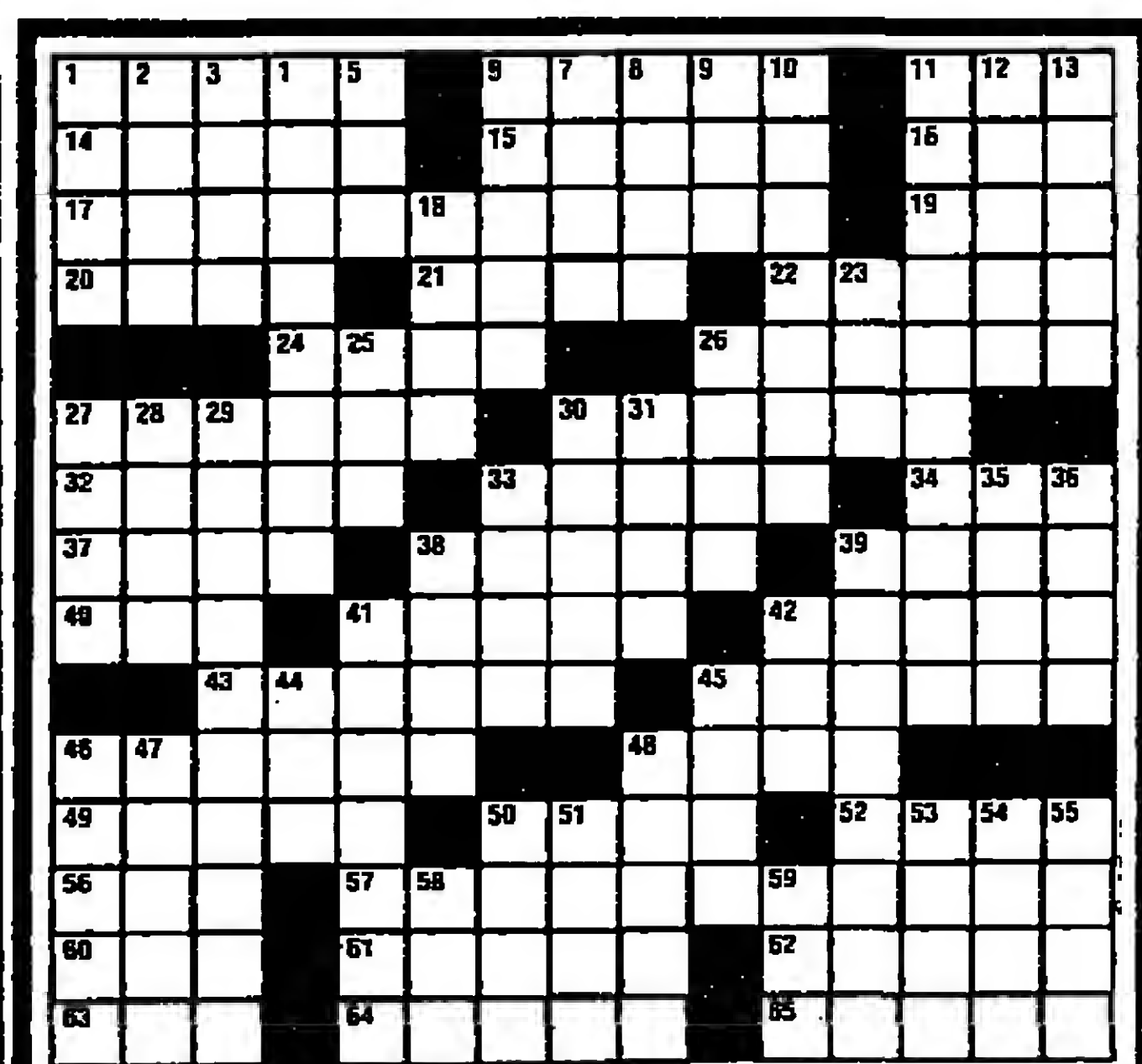
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: CLUCK SCOUT EMPLOY RITUAL
Answer: What they said that snobbish porcupine was—STUCK-UP

THE Daily Crossword by May Mannix

ACROSS	30 Put together	48 — de grace	12 Went wrong
1 Up, in	32 Cupidity	49 "As You Like It"	13 Rips
5 "Who's Who?"	33 Baseball	50 A Sharif	18 Influence
6 contents	34 Court	51 By way of	23 Trivial
11 Plane	37 Author	52 The "Tea For Two"	25 High degree
14 "Mutiny"	38 Bagnold	53 Musical	26 — precedent
15 Tooth	39 Cookidge	54 Bank of	28 Czech river
16 Pay dirt	40 Reagon	55 Gr. epic	29 Ready house for a new winter
17 Harbinger	41 Kid's	56 Baseball's	31 "Bus Stop"
18 Baseball	42 Ornamentation	57 Honshu bay	33 Short fiber
20 Semester	43 Pitches	58 Musical	35 Rows
21 Perukes	44 Brings to a halt	59 Musical	36 Low card
22 Gantry or Bernstein	45 Hard	60 Musical	38 Come into view again
24 Pit—		61 Musical	41 Hugs
26 Mounds		62 Musical	42 Across
27 Simple and natural		63 Musical	44 Gr. letter
		64 Musical	45 Adriatic wind
		65 Musical	46 207
		66 Musical	47 Holds back
		67 Musical	48 Sweets
		68 Musical	50 Step—
		69 Musical	51 Castle
		70 Musical	53 It town
		71 Musical	54 Pericle's porch
		72 Musical	55 Transmit
		73 Musical	58 Suffix
		74 Musical	59 — King Cole



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Rebels shoot down two Salvadorean helicopters

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Left-wing guerrillas Sunday downed two American-made helicopters, killing 28 government soldiers in a major blow to the Salvadorean army.

But the army said troops killed 14 rebels in a battle just after the attack on the helicopters in which 24 soldiers and four pilots died. A rocket-propelled grenade hit the tail section of a Bell UH-1H "Huey" helicopter in eastern El Salvador and forced it to spin into another helicopter flying nearby. Both crashed.

"You see how we are losing these helicopters," Salvadorean Colonel Ramon Morales Ruiz told reporters at the scene of the incident.

"We don't have the necessary helicopters to fight this war as it is."

The Salvadorean army has 21 of the U.S.-supplied helicopters, which military officials consider

crucial in the army's continuing war against guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Military officials say the helicopters, fitted with M-60 machine-guns, provide fire support to ground forces and are important in transporting and deploying troops rapidly to combat areas.

Only eight of the Huey helicopters were in service Monday, military officials said.

But military sources said the most serious loss was the death of four pilots in Sunday's incident because only 25 Salvadorean pilots were trained to fly the big helicopters.

American military officials said here Monday they expected the United States to send as many as 10 more helicopters in the next several months.

In fighting after the crash, troops flushed guerrillas from two towns in the northeast of El Salvador, killing 14 rebels, military officials in the area said. They said six soldiers were wounded.

Government troops under the command of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa forced guerrillas from the towns of San Luis de la Reina and San Gerardo in the northern part of San Miguel province. Six soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

The anti-guerrilla drive, kicked off last Friday, moved from San Miguel province northward, employing 400 paratroopers from the elite U.S.-trained Parachute Battalion.

Only 11 of the helicopters were

in active service this week, a Salvadorean military spokesman said. The rest were grounded for routine maintenance.

According to U.S. military experts, as many as 19 of the helicopters have been grounded at one time for servicing.

The helicopters are important in deploying troops and supplying fire support for ground soldiers battling highly mobile guerrilla forces.

They are worth more than a million dollars each.

Rebel Radio Venceremos, voice of five rebel groups fighting the Salvadorean army, said in a special broadcast that a unit from the insurgents' Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade shot down the helicopters, killing all aboard.

The brigade, considered the best guerrilla fighting unit in El Salvador, belongs to the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP).

Britons hopeful of peace after Argentine gestures

LONDON (AP) — British hopes of patching up relations with Argentina under its new civilian rulers grew Monday after government ministers spent the weekend studying new proposals from President Raul Alfonsín about opening talks on the disputed Falkland Islands.

British newspapers reported that he agreed to shelve the crucial issue of sovereignty of the South Atlantic archipelago, over which the two countries fought a 74-day war in 1982, to get negotiations started.

The Times of London noted, however, that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government "seems determined to drive a hard bargain" before restoring diplomatic and commercial links severed when Argentina and Britain fought for the islands in 1982.

Cranley Onslow, a former Foreign Office minister, noted: "I hope we may get close to talking, even if the agenda is a narrow one. But it may be wrong to raise too many hopes."

Mrs. Thatcher has ruled out any

discussion on the sensitive sovereignty issue as a pre-condition for talks. But she has dropped Britain's earlier insistence that Argentina should formally declare an end to hostilities before negotiations could start.

However, newspaper diplomatic correspondents reported following off-the-record briefings by British officials that Mr. Alfonsín emphasised that the sovereignty question would not be excluded in later stages if talks progressed.

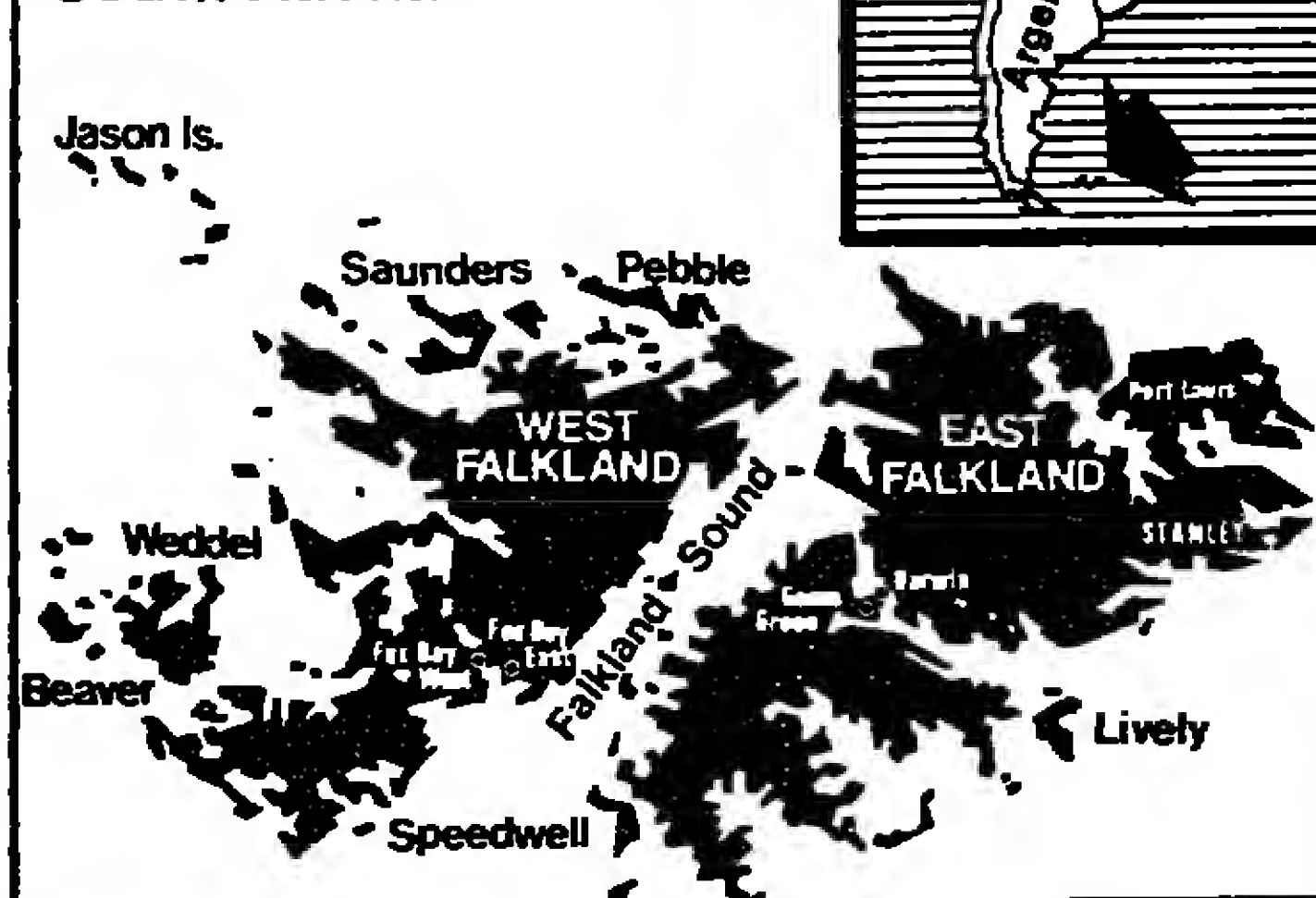
Foreign Office officials confirmed they had received a detailed message from Mr. Alfonsín late Friday night through Swiss and Brazilian intermediaries.

A spokesman declined to give any details, stressing that refusal underlined the seriousness with which London was taking Mr. Alfonsín's initiative.

"We believe the best way to normalise relations is through patient and discreet diplomacy," he said.

Government officials reported "quiet satisfaction" at Mr. Alfonsín's message. But they de-

South Atlantic



clared to say whether it will break the deadlock over negotiations that has stalled efforts to normalise relations since the Falklands war.

Mr. Alfonsín's message was in response to British proposals on Jan. 26 to open a dialogue on four main points: Lifting commercial and financial restrictions on both sides, returning the remains of Argentines killed on the Falklands in 1982, and reopening air and sea links between Argentina and the islands.

The liberal Guardian daily reported that Mr. Alfonsín's response "goes well beyond these points."

It said he seeks a phase-out of Britain's forces in and around the Falklands and their replacement by a United Nations peacekeeping force.

The paper also said he considered that a formal end to hostilities, even though neither country formally declared war in 1982, and normalisation of relations would follow once talks began.

Indian home minister leaves to troubled north

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The home minister rushed to northern India Monday to investigate recent communal violence that killed five people, while the government urged Sikh political leaders to resume the new talks they are boycotting.

Home Minister P.C. Sethi left for Panipat, 125 kilometres north of here in Haryana state, to make an on-the-spot study of the clashes between Sikhs and Hindus Sunday, government officials said.

Parliamentary troops already have been rushed to Haryana and neighbouring Punjab state where Sikhs are demanding greater political and religious autonomy — and military Hindus have responded with a backlash.

An indefinite curfew was ordered in the northern Indian city Sunday night after five people were killed and 10 wounded in clashes triggered by Sikh militants who hurled insults and stones at Hindus from inside a Sikh temple.

Declarer should have taken some time to study the hand before playing to the first trick. Since he could discard two diamonds from his hand on dummy's clubs, he should have realized that his contract was safe as long as West could not regain the lead — he would lose no more than one trick in each suit if the club finesse were to fail.

Equally obvious was the fact that the only suit in which West could regain the lead was spades. And declarer could prevent that by simply allowing East to win the first spade trick with the king.

The rest would have been plain sailing. Declarer could win any return, draw trumps and then take the club finesse. Even though that lost, the king of diamonds was safe from attack and the game was secure.

Thatcher to face new challenge over son's deals

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, reported to be "incandescent with rage" about attacks on her over her son's business interests, faces a fresh challenge on the issue this week.

Opposition parliamentarians are planning to ask a key House of Commons Committee to rule that she should have declared the interests of her son Mark, 31, and that she had broken its code of conduct by failing to do so.

Labour Party leaders made clear Sunday they would not let up in their attack on the Thatcher family over a 1981 deal in which Oman gave a \$300 million (\$420 million) contract to a British firm to build its university.

Mrs. Thatcher was on an official visit to the Gulf state and was pre-

paring for Britain to get the project at the same time as her son was there representing Omentation, the only British firm seeking the deal and the one which got the contract.

The Conservative leader has insisted her son's business affairs are his concern and she did not intend to further them.

But the row has refused to go away and the Sunday Observer newspaper, which revealed Mark's role a month ago, Sunday quoted close Thatcher associates as saying she was "incandescent with rage" over the continuing attacks on her.

The Observer also said Lord Whitelaw, deputy Conservative leader, had urged "a somewhat fuller disclosure" by Mrs. Thatcher.

Mozambican, S. African ministers hold peace talks

MAPUTO (R) — South African and Mozambican ministers began talks today aimed at bringing peace to southern Africa.

The South African delegation, led by Foreign Minister P.W. Botha and including Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange, is the highest-ranking South African official group to visit Mozambique since independence in 1975.

Mozambique's delegation at the one-day talks was led by Economic Affairs Minister Jacinto Soares Veloso and included Justice Minister Jose Oscar Monteiro, Deputy Defence Minister Sergio Vieira and Deputy Security Minister Salesio Nanyambipano.

There were no public opening speeches and the meeting began in private.

The talks follow a meeting in Lusaka last week at which South Africa reached agreement with Angola on setting up a joint commission to monitor the withdrawal of South African forces from southern Angola.

An official statement on Saturday announcing the Maputo talks said they would assess results achieved by working groups set up by the two governments at a mee-

ting in Swaziland in December. The working groups, which held their first meetings in Maputo and Pretoria on Jan. 16, cover four areas — security, economic relations, tourism and the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric station.

Officials here and in Pretoria said Monday's talks were likely to focus on the security situation, particularly since both delegations included high-ranking military and security officers.

The security talks are widely regarded as the key to improved relations between the two ideologically-opposed countries after years of hostility.

At last month's meeting of the security working group in Pretoria the two sides agreed that neither country's territory should be used as a springboard for attacks on the other.

South Africa in the past has accused Mozambique of allowing guerrillas of the banned African National Congress to operate from its territory. Mozambique has accused South Africa of sponsoring guerrillas trying to topple the government.

The South African officials were expected to fly home later Monday.



French truck drivers lift blockade

PARIS (R) — Truck drivers began to lift their blockade of French roads during the night after their leaders agreed to talk to the government but roadblocks remained scattered across the country early Monday, police said.

"There's a definite improvement compared to the weekend," said a police officer. "But there are about 50 trouble spots in 17 departments of France where there are partial blockades."

Drivers moved their trucks off roads in about 30 departments within an hour of an order Sunday from the National Road Transport Federation to end the blockade so that talks could start with Transport Minister Charles Fiterman Tuesday.

The blockade paralysed traffic throughout the country over the weekend as thousands of motorists from the north headed for the Alps at the start of the winter holiday period.

Police said rebel truckers were keeping all but one lane on many roads closed so that traffic was moving, but only slowly. Some of the rebels were independent operators who did not belong to either of the big national road transport federations.

The rebels want to be represented in the talks Tuesday on the federation's demands for compensation for time lost due to a recent go-slow by customs officers on both sides of the Franco-Italian border.

The federations also want closer government supervision of border crossing points and a cut in fuel oil tax.

The weather, which remained clear and sunny during the troubled weekend, began to turn bad Monday, with snowfalls and icy roads across the country.

The drivers' action provoked intense anger from some motorists. On Sunday evening a furious car driver stuck at a blockade in the Provence region of southern France reversed into a group of truck drivers, injuring one of them.

The truckers turned the man's car on its roof and he had to be rescued by police.

Huge fire closes Karachi Airport

KARACHI (R) — Karachi Airport officials stopped all flights to and from Pakistan's largest city Monday after a fire started by a stray welding spark gutted the international departure area.

About 40 fire engines, aided by military personnel rushed to the scene, were battling the blaze, which threatened to spread through the main terminal, the officials told Reuters.

A column of thick black smoke rose 30 metres into the air over the international departure area, where authorities said a spark from welding work on a baggage conveyor belt started the blaze.

Souvenir shops, wood paneling and plastic-covered seats in the

large departure hall quickly caught fire, they added.

No injuries were reported in the departure area, which can be crowded during the night when most international flights take off but is often empty during the day.

Crowds of passengers, airport employees and onlookers filled the car park outside the terminal, where airline and customs records rescued from the fire were scattered like waste paper.

Firefighters pulled down a small customs house next to the departure lounge to try to keep the fire from spreading.

Terminal Two, the main building for domestic departures, stands a few hundred metres from

the main structure and was not affected by the fire, officials said. Airport security officials told Reuters they had not heard any explosion to indicate a bomb or other sabotage.

They said the welding spark apparently landed on cotton insulation used in the lounge's air conditioning system and spread from there. They had originally suspected a short circuit of starting the fire.

Airport officials said the fire would probably cause delays on many international flights which use Karachi as a stopover between Europe and the Far East. Most of these flights pass through Karachi during the night here.

Democrats likely to focus attack on Reagan's Central American policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic lawmakers are likely to shift their focus of attack on President Ronald Reagan's foreign policies from Lebanon to Central America as Congress returns Monday from a 10-day recess.

Secretary of State George Shultz gets a chance to defend the Reagan policies this week as he testifies on behalf of the administration's new military and economic aid proposals for El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Mr. Reagan sent Congress on Friday a package providing \$8.9 billion in aid for Central America over five years and asked the lawmakers to give it their "urgent attention."

The Reagan proposals embraced the aid recommendations of the bi-partisan commission headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and are intended to stem leftist advances in the region. The package includes \$176 million for El Salvador for the rest of fiscal year 1984 and larger amounts later.

Before the congressional recess, there was intense pressure in the House and Senate for a rapid pullout of the U.S. Marines from

Lebanon. On Thursday, Mr. Reagan announced a specific withdrawal plan under which all but 500 troops would be moved to navy warships offshore.

The troops left behind would train what remains of the Lebanese army and provide security for the U.S. embassy.

One House Democrat, who spoke on condition he remained anonymous, said "Lebanon is gone" as an issue now that the president has decided to redeploy the Marines.

At issue in Shultz's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is how much the U.S.-supported government in El Salvador should be pressed to improve its human rights policies.

The commission recommended that Congress impose tough certification standards under which aid to El Salvador would be directly tied to a decline in the use of death squads against government opponents, and the elimination of other violations of basic human rights.

But Mr. Reagan, in a split with the commission, urged that the White House retain the power to decide if El Salvador had made enough human rights progress to

deserve continued military assistance.

Under the proposal, the president would submit voluntary reports of human rights compliance to Congress.

The Democrat-controlled House Foreign Affairs Committee also called on administration officials to explain Mr. Reagan's Central American policies, including allegations that the United States is building permanent military bases in Honduras as part of its efforts to defeat leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and support insurgents seeking to overthrow the government in Nicaragua.

Congress gave the administration \$20 million less than it requested last year and linked some of that assistance to the long-delayed prosecution of El Salvador's National Guard officials accused of murdering four U.S. nuns.

With some delay likely in congressional approval for the El Salvador aid package, the administration reportedly is seeking administrative ways to keep military aid flowing to ensure the government troops fighting the civil war there do not run short of arms.

Iowans may boost Mondale's election bid

DES MOINES, Iowa (R) — Voters in this farm state were expected to give former Vice-President Walter Mondale a sizeable boost Monday night in his bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

The contest is also crucial to the hopes of those trying to catch Mr. Mondale — particularly Senator John Glenn of Ohio, the former astronaut whose first orbital flight occurred 22 years ago Monday.

Polls in advance of Monday night's local precinct caucuses indicated Mr. Mondale could get nearly 50 per cent of the vote, with Iowans dividing their support among the eight men seeking a chance to run against President Reagan in November.

The meetings in the state's 2,495 precincts begin at 8 p.m. (0200 GMT) and no meaningful results are likely before midnight (0500 GMT).

The caucuses begin the process by which Iowa Democrats pick their delegates to the party's nominating convention in July in San Francisco. Iowa has only 58 of the 3,933 delegates at the convention but the way in which they are chosen provides a test of public opinion which has more significance than their number.

Iowa's significance in presidential politics lies not in numbers but in timing.

As the state with the first general voting of the election year, what happens here has an impact in the crowded round of delegate-selection primaries and caucuses in the coming weeks.

A poll published Sunday by the Des Moines Register showed Mr. Mondale with 53 per cent of the vote among a sample of Democrats considered potential participants in the caucuses.

Mr. Glenn was second with 12

per cent, Senator Alan Cranston of California third with nine per cent and Senator Gary Hart of Colorado fourth with eight per cent.

Following them with five per cent or less were former Senator George McGovern, the party's unsuccessful candidate in 1972, black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, former Florida Governor Reubin Askew and Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina.

Four years ago nearly 100,000 Democrats, roughly one out of five, participated in the Iowa caucuses.

State party officials have said this year's turnout may not be as high. The race has not stirred as much interest and play-offs begin Monday night in the Iowa High School Basketball Championship, an annual contest which probably holds as much interest for many as the race for the White House.

China to publish biography of Genghis Khan

PEKING (R) — China is to publish a biography of Genghis Khan, the 13th Century Mongol warlord whose conquests extended from the Pacific to the Black Sea. The New China News Agency said the book was written over a period of 10 years by Mongolian author Saixiyerl. Genghis Khan died in 1227 and is buried in inner Mongolia. During Mao Tse-tung's 1966-76 cultural revolution the tomb was sacked but it has now been restored.

Former premier chooses new title

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, who accepted a peerage on his 90th birthday, is to take the title of Earl of Stockton, after the northeast England town he first represented in parliament. The first Earl of Stockton will be introduced into the House of Lords, parliament's upper chamber, on Feb. 29. His son Maurice MacMillan, a Conservative member of parliament, will take the courtesy title of Viscount MacMillan but will remain in the House of Commons.

'Many London stores serve revolting food'

LONDON (R) — The general standard of food in quick-service restaurants in top London department stores is revolting, according to the latest Egon Ronay Guide. Even Harrods, with a good rating in five of its catering outlets, offered "tasteless, waxy, slimy and bland sandwiches" in one of its cafes, the "Just a Bite" guide for 1984 said. Although the guide was able to recommend 1,000 British quick-service eating places, of more than 50 tested in 18 leading London stores half were classified as unsatisfactory, 13 as indifferent, and only 13 as good. None was judged to be outstanding.

7 die in British climbing accidents

KESWICK, England (R) — Seven people fell to their deaths in climbing accidents in Britain at the weekend. Two climbers died when they fell 730 metres from Helvellyn Mountain in north West England Sunday despite sunny weather, because they apparently did not appreciate the danger of icy ridges, Tom Fynn, a rescue leader said.

Couples advised not to marry until 20

NEW DELHI (R) — A conference on Asia's population problem recommended Monday that couples should not marry until they are 20 years old and declared that family planning was a basic human right. A resolution at the end of the four-day conference of Asian parliamentarians also urged Asian countries to adopt population policies as part of their economic development plans. The conference forecast a population growth of one billion in Asia by the turn of the century from the present 2.6 billion. The guest speaker, former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, criticised the Roman Catholic Church, saying it stood in the way of family planning when population was rocketing. Delegates included former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda.

Pilots ordered not to 'bump start'

LONDON (AP) — British Airways has issued its flight crews with new operating rules after one of its pilots attempted to restart a jammed engine on a jetliner by accelerating down the runway. The incident took place last September at New Delhi Airport in India, an airline official said Sunday. The captain of the four-engine Boeing 747, with 352 passengers on board, accelerated to 225 kmph said a spokesman for the state-owned airline. He said the unusual procedure, also known as "windmilling," can force a stalled engine to turn over. On this occasion, the jet's trimmed fourth engine failed to start and the take-off attempt was abandoned, the official said.

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